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Weekly

Vol. 6 No. 6 Monday 29th March 2010 Still \$4

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Goal! Weekly is available every Monday from all good newsagents across Australia.
(Tuesday in some territories)

Front cover: HAL Grand Final winners

Publisher:
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PO Box 142 Port Melbourne VIC 3207
Ph: 03 9551 7538
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Printer:
The Age Print Centre
31 - 69 Western Avenue
Tullamarine Vic 3043

Distribution:
Fairfax Media Publication Solutions
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UCL Quarter Final Showdowns

By Matt Galea

AFTER some stunning games of football in the Round of 16, anticipation is certainly high as the Champions League story continues this week with the commencement of quarter finals football. The draw has certainly thrown up some mouth watering ties, and there will be no shortage of exciting football on hand.

With each tie as hard to predict as the next, it may very well be that star players like Lionel Messi and Wayne Rooney, who produced individual master classes at the expense of VfB Stuttgart and AC Milan respectively, will be the deciding factors in many of these ties. What is certain, is that every team will have to reach their peak to guarantee success. Any slip ups will be severely punished as the pressure really starts to be cranked up on the European elite.

Lyon vs. Bordeaux – Stade de Gerland – 6.45am Kick Off March 31st
There will be no love lost between these two sides as the struggle for domestic French dominance makes its way onto the continental stage. Bordeaux, who last season ended a seven year run of titles for Lyon, have enjoyed a very good European campaign. In the group stages having overcome the likes of Bayern Munich and Juventus, Bordeaux also defeated Olympiakos to reach the last eight. Gourcuff has remained Bordeaux's star man this season, and Bordeaux will be hoping for another stellar performance from him to help lead Bordeaux to a win over their fierce rivals and progression to the semi's where they would face either Manchester United or Bayern Munchen.

Lyon's shock win over Real Madrid will have the French outfit raring to go, especially with this first leg being played at home. Bordeaux of course have already picked up three points at the Stade de Gerland, which adds just that extra bit of incentive for Lyon to stop their fierce rivals from defeating them again on their home patch. Other than Real Madrid, Lyon have also enjoyed good performances in Europe against Fiorentina and Liverpool. As a club that has always been one of Europe's "nearly clubs", they have not failed to qualify from the group stages once in the last four seasons, yet this season is only the second time in five years they've made the quarter finals. For now they will have been glad to avoid another of Europe's super clubs, however they will be more than wary of the threat posed by Bordeaux.

Bayern Munchen vs. Manchester United – 6.45am Kick Off March 31st
One of the two glamour ties in the quarter finals, Manchester United will travel to Munich, a city forever connected with the club, to take on a foe that has proved very tricky for the Reds in Europe. United have only ever beaten Munich once in European competition, that thrilling 2-1 win in the final at the Camp Nou in 1999, however, after overcoming an even poorer record against AC Milan in the Round of 16, United have will be relatively confident of securing a fourth consecutive semi final berth. Key to their progression will be Wayne Rooney, who is playing the best football of his career, scoring goals for fun. His four goals against AC Milan are truly a testament to the quality of a player who has reveled under the new expectations that have been heaped upon him.



Barcelona's Thierry Henry comes face to face with his old club., Arsenal, in which is perhaps the pick of the quarter finals. Gooner fans will be hoping he keeps both hands in his pockets for this particular tie.

Munich should not be discounted however. At the top of the Bundesliga table at the time of writing, Munich have suffered some poor results of late, however, they have all the makings of a fantastic team: a strong defense in the shape of Demichelis and Gorlitz, creativity in midfield with Altiptop, Robben and Pranjic, as well as height and strength up front with Miroslav Klose and Mario Gomez, with all the flare and skill provided by the brilliant Ribery. Supposedly a target of Chelsea, Madrid and even United, Ribery will have the chance to again show his talents to his suitors on a grand stage, and a good performance from the Frenchman could very well be United's undoing in this tie.

Inter Milan vs. CSKA Moscow – Giuseppe Meazza – 6.45am Kick Off April 1st
After Honda's dramatic late goal in Seville, CSKA Moscow are riding high and will be hopeful of defying the odds again when they travel to Italy to take on Jose's men. Another terrific will be required if the Russians are going to have any joy at all against a side who turned

in a very mature performance against Chelsea last week. Moscow will be well prepared for the tie, having no domestic fixtures to contend with, and will look to star man Milos Krasic to put in the kind of performance that has alerted Europe's top clubs. An away goal here will be vital to any hope Moscow will have of sealing progression to the semi finals.

Mourinho on the other hand will be reasonably happy with his draw. After defeating his old side in the Round of 16, Mourinho will look for the same controlled performance his side delivered so well at Stamford Bridge. The likes of Sneijder, Eto'o, Lucio, Mota and Milito should all prove too classy for Moscow to handle. Jose will be looking for his side to put in an emphatic display at home to make the trip to Luzhniki as easy as possible, as they hope to book a spot in the semis against either Barcelona or Arsenal.

Arsenal vs. Barcelona – Emirates Stadium – 6.45am Kick Off April 1st
Perhaps the most anticipated tie in the quarter finals, this clash of the titans should make for a mouth watering spectacle. With both teams being noted for their respective brands of high quality attacking football, there will be no shortage of good football on display at the Emirates. Arsenal have never really shun on the European stage, highlighted by their failure to have won a European championship, unlike their opponents who are reigning champions of Europe. Cesc Fabregas, supposedly a target of

Barcelona's will be the key to any success Arsenal will enjoy. His flare, vision and creativity are at times unmatched, and he will need to be at his best to help Arsenal overcome the European juggernaut that is Barcelona.

Both sides enjoyed rampant wins in the second legs of their respective ties last round, and will look to carry that confidence into this tie. Despite the form of Arsenal, Barcelona will still remain favorites; such is the brilliance of their performances throughout the season. Barcelona will look to Ibrahimovic to lessen the goal scoring burden on Lionel Messi, who has been mind blowingly impressive in recent weeks, and prove that he can make a big impact on the European stage when it counts, which as of yet he has really failed to do.



Luis van Gaal has a perfect record against English teams, but Bayern haven't advanced from the UCL quarter finals since 2001.

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Ollerton leaves Gully

In the first coaching change of the new Victorian season, Peter Ollerton has handed in his resignation at Green Gully Soccer Club.

The former World Cup Socceroo, who played for Australia in the 1974 finals in Germany, decided to end his 10 month tenure at Gully Reserve last week, after only four rounds completed in the VPL. Speaking exclusively to Goal! Weekly regarding his decision, Ollerton said, "I think it's in the best interests of everybody under the circumstances that we have agreed to go our separate ways. At the end of the day, I had my thoughts and they had their thoughts and I just didn't see the point of me being there anymore. I don't hold any bitterness about it, but sometimes that's just how things work out. It's all out of the way now, though I would have liked to have finished the

job, but that wasn't the case and life goes on." Ollerton went on to add, "they've still got a good squad which I believe should be challenging for the top honours this year, and I wish them all the very best."

Ollerton expressed his frustration of only have won one game from a possible four games so far this season, citing an extended list of unavailable players which included Daniel Jones (visa issues), Joel Nikolic (long term knee injury) and Matthew Saunders (whooping cough), that had hampered his squad selection and the lack of available fire power up front.

Green Gully General Manager Raymond Manos said, "Peter is a fantastic coach who has an outstanding record and a lot of things haven't gone the club's way, but that's not taking anything away

anything from what Peter had implemented to the team. The team has been unlucky in regards to match results. These things happen in football, and we just need to carry on and move on. It's still early in the season, so there's still plenty of time to rectify things, and the club will decide on a replacement in due course as we go forward."

Gully assistant coach, former Gold Medalist and Whittlesea Zebras coach, Paul Harris, was to look after team affairs for the match against the reigning premier, Altona Magic, over the weekend, until the club decides on a permanent appointment.

The rumour mill has already gone into overdrive since Ollerton's departure with names such as Mehmet Durakovic and Ian Dobson being touted as possible candidates for the vacant post.



Paul Harris (left) takes over from Peter Ollerton at Gully.
PHOTO: STEVE STAREK

Vidmar applauds Reds' fighting character

Adelaide United FC Coach Aurelio Vidmar could not have been prouder of his charges, after their heart stopping come from behind win over Sanfrecce Hiroshima to consolidate their place at the top of Group H in the AFC Champions League 2010.

After last week's 3-2 win over Hiroshima, there is no better evidence that the Reds have instilled a "never say die" attitude in the prestigious Asian club competition.

Up against powerhouse clubs from Korea, China and Japan, Adelaide United sits three points clear with a perfect record on top of Group H at the half way mark of the Group Stage.

While the victories over Pohang and Shandong were impressive, United proved they have another string in their bow after being severely challenged and falling behind against Sanfrecce Hiroshima, only to claw their way back and find a way to win.

When Cassio's deflected free kick found its mark with eight minutes to go, the Reds had completed their rescue mission after seeing their 1-0 lead at the break disappear within 20 minutes of the second half as a 10 man Hiroshima struck twice.

After dominating the opening half but finding themselves a goal down with 15 minutes to go, the same United side during the Hyundai A-League season may have rolled over and surrendered, but there is a new belief and resilience in this Reds squad.

The win was the first time since December 2008 that a United team had managed to come from behind to take all three points, and the Reds boss could not have been happier with his team's resolve, when Hiroshima had seemingly arrested all of the momentum after United failed to convert their dominance in the opening 45 minutes to a greater advantage on the scoreboard.

"We got the three points and that was the most important thing. I thought our first half was exceptional and we probably slowed down a little bit in the second half and allowed them to get back into the game, but in saying that I thought we showed a tremendous amount of character, will and fight to get ourselves back into a winning position," Vidmar said.

"I thought the game should have been over at half time. If you look at the whole 90 minutes we created the best clear cut chances, but unfortunately we didn't put them away...we made it difficult for ourselves in the second half, but as I said I was really pleased with the way we came back and showed a heck of a lot of fight."

From Hyundai A-League paupers to AFC Champions League Group H pacemakers, the contrast has been remarkable, Vidmar putting a significant extent of the change down to the players' work ethic on the training track, and the 'team first' attitude that has spread through the entire squad.

Vidmar specifically heralded the professionalism and conduct of players who have had to bide their time on the bench

so far in the ACL, the likes of Nigel Boogaard, Cassio, Adam Hughes, Paul Reid, Fabian Barbiero and Adam Griffiths who are all still awaiting their chance.

"I think we've worked extremely hard, what do they say - luck favours the brave. We've done a hell of a lot of work, the players are up for it, the attitude amongst the group is fantastic, and I've got a heap of praise for those boys who haven't played much...those guys have been tremendous," Vidmar said.

"They haven't had a lot of game time but they have been extremely positive amongst the group and that's helped, when Cassio and Barbiero came on they changed the game for us when we really needed it."

Few would have imagined United to be within touching distance of a place in the second round of the ACL after just three games of the Group Stage. However Vidmar is not as surprised, considering the belief that is among the playing group and their emphasis that despite three positive results, the job is not done.

"We were sure and everyone was up for believing that we could qualify for the Round of 16, and now we've put ourselves in a great position...but I still believe we need another three points," Vidmar said.

"Three games, three wins is fantastic. We've spoken about it before that we can't get carried away with it, we've just got to get all of our energies together



ACL Match Day 4	
Melbourne Victory v Kawasaki Frontale Etihad Stadium Wednesday 31 March KO 7.30pm	Sanfrecce Hiroshima v Adelaide United FC Hiroshima Big Arch Tuesday 30 March KO 8.30pm (ACDT)



Robert Cornthwaite heads home for Adelaide Utd against Sanfrecce.
PHOTO: ADAM BUTLER

and refocus and make sure we're doing the same things on Tuesday against Hiroshima."

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Boca takes Supercclasico honours



ARGENTINA
Gary Medel scored in each half Thursday to lead Boca Juniors to a badly needed 2-0 victory

over fierce Buenos Aires rival River Plate.

The match was resumed from Sunday after it was washed out by torrential rain after 10 minutes. Medel's first goal came in the 23rd minute, deflecting a free kick into the net. He scored again in the 53rd on a rising shot from 15 meters (yards). To cap his day, the Chilean was sent off in the 80th for a second yellow card.

The match was watched by Argentina coach and former Boca star Diego Maradona. It was Maradona's first match at La Bombonera stadium in a year, largely because of bitter spat with Boca midfielder Juan Roman Riquelme. Since taking over as coach, Maradona has dropped Riquelme from his national team plans. In response, Riquelme has been critical of Maradona and retired from international football. "Take Riquelme, you'll be champions," fans shouted at Maradona.

Riquelme was one of the leaders on Argentina's 2006 World Cup team in Germany, which reached the quarterfinals under coach Jose Pekerman. The victory gave Boca 11 points in 10 games and left River on 12. Argentina's two most popular clubs are far behind league-leader Independiente with 23 points and Godoy Cruz with 21 in the Clausura tournament.

Independiente had a 2-0 victory at home against Rosario Central, while Godoy Cruz beat defending champion Banfield 2-0. Arsenal de Sarandi won 2-0 against Gimnasia La Plata in the day's other match. Lucas Mareque opened the scoring for Independiente, beating several defenders and finishing with a left-foot strike from outside the area in the 78th minute leaving the Diablos Rojos (the Red Devils) of Avellaneda as league leaders of the Clausura. Leonel Núñez scored the second with a low shot under man-of-the-match goalkeeper Hernán Galíndez after a counter attack in the 86th. This victory gives legendary Américo 'Toro' (The Bull) Gallego their fifth consecutive victory.

Speaking of coaches, Chacarita Juniors battling on the bottom of the table in the Clausura with four defeats of late has sacked it's coach and former player, Fernando Gamboa. Mauro Navas has been confirmed as his replacement aiming to rescue the Funerbreros where the club president Vicente Celio of the San Martín club issuing a statement quoting, "the decision was strictly down to results despite the team displaying quality football, however it is designed to create reaction amongst the players because after nine rounds, we are not capable of obtaining results worthy of staying in top-flight football."

Back at the top of the table, Leonardo Sigali's header gave Godoy Cruz the lead at home against Banfield in the 19th minute. David Ramírez hit a diagonal volley from outside the area that dipped over goalkeeper Cristian Lucchetti for the second in the 75th. Independiente head with 23 points, followed by Godoy Cruz on 21 after 10 rounds. River Plate has 12 points, four clear of Boca. In other results, Arsenal de Sarandi won a mid-table match against Gimnasia La Plata with goals from Luciano Leguizamón in the 33rd and Mauro Obolo in the 79th.

Huracán 2, Chacarita Juniors 0; Atlético Tucumán 1, Estudiantes de La Plata 3; San Lorenzo 2, Colón 2; Lanús 1, Racing Club 0; Newell's 1, Vélez Sarsfield 1; Argentinos Juniors 1, Tigre 1.



MEXICO
Mexican champions Monterrey moved into the overall top spot in the Clausura standings with a 2-1 victory over Guadalajara on Saturday.

Monterrey, who have 26 points from 11 matches, hold a six-point lead in Group Two over Morelia whom had their Mexican international striker Miguel Sabah missing a fourth-minute penalty, upset 1-0 at home by lowly Atlante.

The UNAM Pumas scored twice within three minutes to beat Jaguares 2-0 on Sunday for their fourth win in five matches in the Mexican Clausura tournament. In the other three matches Sunday, Group 3 leader Santos defeated Puebla 2-1, Ciudad Juárez beat Querétaro 1-0 while giant Club América and Pachuca had a 2-all draw.

Monterrey has 26 points after 11 rounds, followed by Chivas (25) and Santos (24). Pumas moved into second place in Group 3 with 20 points, four points behind Santos, via goals from Ismael Iniguez and David Lopez in the 53rd and 55th minutes.

"We keep getting closer to the main objective which is to qualify for the postseason", said Pumas midfielder Israel Castro. "The team is improving each week".

The Jaguars had a couple of scoring chances including a shot by Christian Valdez that rattled the Pumas goalpost in the 10th but after Christian Álvarez was sent off in the 31st minute, the match was dominated by the hosts.

"We were playing great before the red card, but we gave Pumas the ball and that killed us," Valdez said. Later on, at estadio Azteca, Antonio Lopez' 67th-minute goal salvaged a 2-2 draw for America against Pachuca.

Angel Reyna gave the Eagles the lead in the 28th, but Dario Cvitanich equalized from a penalty kick in the 41st and Edgar Benitez gave Pachuca the lead in the 63rd before Lopez' equalizer.

In Torreón, Colombian striker Darwin Quintero in the 38th and Argentine Daniel Ludueña in the 44th scored for Santos Laguna, which has not lost a match since the third round.

Guadalajara meanwhile have taken only one point since their record start of eight successive wins but lead Group One by nine points from Atlas, upset 1-0 at home by Estudiantes UAG (Tecos).

Santos Laguna lead Group Three by a single point from Cruz Azul, who continued their recovery from a dismal start to the championship with a 4-0 rout of Tigres UANL. The top two teams in each group plus the two next best placed sides in the overall table qualify for the knock-out phase.

Paraguay's Osvaldo Martínez put in-form Monterrey ahead with a penalty three minutes into the second half at Guadalajara's Tecnológico stadium. Striker Jesús Zavala increased their lead in the 62nd with a shot into the top corner from a pass by Martínez. Mexico international striker Javier Hernández pulled one back three minutes later with a bicycle kick from a corner, taking his tally as the championship's top scorer to nine. Cruz Azul, runners-up to



The initial 10 minutes played between Boca and River last week under heavy rain.

Monterrey in the Apertura championship in the first half of the season, extended their unbeaten run to six matches. Their Argentine striker Emanuel Villa, top marksman of the Apertura, scored one of the goals taking his tally to five.



BRAZIL
Adriano scored twice, including an equalizer in second-half injury time, to help Flamengo salvage a 2-2 draw against Botafogo in their encounter on Sunday in the Rio Cup, the second stage of the Rio de Janeiro state championship.

His dramatic equalizer came with a header at the far post after a free kick into the area three minutes into injury time. The ball just missed the outstretched arms of goalkeeper Jefferson and dropped into the far corner. Flamengo, the defending Rio champion, twice had to come from behind.

Argentine striker Germán Herrera opened the scoring for Botafogo with a controversial penalty kick in the 16th minute. Midfielder Lucio Flavio appeared to be fouled outside the area in the play that prompted the penalty, but the referee said he was inside the box despite heavy complaints from Flamengo players.

Adriano equalized four minutes later from inside the six-yard box after Jefferson deflected a cross in front of the goal and the striker just tapped the ball across the goal line. Herrera added his second goal with a close-range shot in the 55th, completing a cross by right back Somalia.

He scored Flamengo's winner against Vasco in the fierce Rio derby last weekend and his form against Botafogo continued a good run since he took time out because of personal problems and complaints he has been unfairly targeted by Brazilian media recently. The result was enough to give Flamengo first place in Group A of the Rio Cup after five matches. Botafogo, which played without suspended Uruguay striker Sebastian "El Loco" Abreu, leads Group B.

Botafogo won the Guanabara Cup, the first stage of the state tournament. The winners of each stage play for the overall title, but Botafogo can automatically secure the trophy if it also clinches the Rio Cup. América, which has former striker Romario overseeing its football opera-

tions, defeated Boavista 3-2 in Mesquita to move to second place in Group B, ahead of Vasco, which fell 1-0 to Olaria in Volta Redonda on Saturday, losing its second consecutive match. Only the top two in each of the groups will reach the semifinal stage. Fluminense, which trails Flamengo in Group A, edged Resende 2-1 in Volta Redonda on Sunday with two first-half goals by striker André Lima, who was replacing injured forward Fred. Resende has lost all its five Rio Cup matches, being outscored 17-2.

In the Sao Paulo state championship, Santos remained atop the standings after routing 9-1 to Ituano at the Pacaembu stadium to remain atop the standings and virtually secure a spot in the semifinals. Ituano scored just a minute into the match, but then it was all Santos. Striker André scored three goals, midfielders Madson and Paulo Henrique Ganso scored two each, and midfielders Maikon Leite and Zé Eduardo added one each. Ituano played a man down for most of the match and had two other players sent off at the end. Defender Carlos Eduardo was sent off in the 27th after receiving his second yellow card. Midfielder Luis Eduardo also was red carded in the 87th, and goalkeeper Saulo was sent off in the 89th for a foul that prompted the penalty which gave Santos its ninth goal.

Santos got the win despite playing without its top two players—Robinho has a minor thigh injury and Neymar was suspended after being red-carded in the team's 4-3 loss to Palmeiras last week. They have 35 points from 15 matches in the Sao Paulo tournament, two points more than Santo Andre, which on Saturday defeated Bragantino 4-1 at home. Third-place Sao Paulo beat Mogi Mirim 2-0 at Morumbi stadium, with goalkeeper Rogério Ceni scoring his 88th career goal with a first-half penalty. Corinthians maintained fourth place despite a 2-0 defeat to Gremio Prudente in Prudente. The defending champion played without striker Ronaldo, who is being rested for the Copa Libertadores. On Saturday, 2008 champion Palmeiras lost 2-0 to Ponte Preta at home, dropping to ninth in the 20-team standings and practically erasing its chances of reaching the semifinals. Ponte Preta, which is in eighth place, missed a late penalty kick at their Palestra Italia home stadium in Sao Paulo.

Meanwhile Adriano has been questioned by police about alleged ties to drug traffickers. A prosecutor had ordered the questioning after a newspaper reported that Adriano purchased two motorcycles and registered one of them in the name of the mother of a "known drug trafficker."

Adriano did not talk to the media after being questioned on Thursday, but one of his lawyers said everything was clarified. He was raised at a Rio de Janeiro slum and admits he likes to remain close to his community, but has always denied any type of wrongdoing. Police didn't immediately make any comments about Adriano's questioning.

COPA LIBERTADORES

Brazil's Cruzeiro beat Deportivo Italia of Venezuela 2-0 on Wednesday in Group Seven of the Libertadores Cup. Chile's Colo Colo have four and Deportivo Italia one. Velez beat Colo Colo 2-1 on Thursday in Buenos Aires where the Chilean giants were one-nil up in the 8th minute with a goal by Argentine forward Ezequiel Miralles until the Fortín side woke up by pressuring the midfielders Rodrigo Millar, Charles Aránguiz and Colombian Macnelly Torres who were taking all protagonism up until that moment of the match.

It was a dull and average match in general for Colo Colo, Argentine coach Hugo Tocalli used all his options however Velez's forwards made the difference despite the Chileans' resistance particularly from goalkeeper Francisco Prieto, the star performer for the visitors.

Hernán Rodrigo López and Santiago Silva put the match quickly beyond reach of the Chileans with two successive quick responses after being initially down on the 13th and 29th minute of the first half. The second was a tense tussle where the hosts made the visitors defend for nearly the entire second half until a red-card to Rodrigo Millar left the game's scoreline deadlocked in favour of Vélez. With this result, Vélez reaches 10 points, Cruzeiro with 7 y Colo Colo 4 leaving Venezuelan outfit Deportivo Italia eliminated with a single point in Group 7.

The Brazilians took the lead following a sixth-minute corner when Italia goalkeeper Jose Fernandez was caught stranded and Fabinho stooped to head the ball through a melee of players. Midfielder Alain Giroletti rattled the bar with a free kick close to the half-hour mark before Pedro Ken increased Cruzeiro's lead in the 69th minute, two minutes after coming on as a substitute.

In Group Four, Argentina's Lanús beat Blooming of Bolivia 1-0 thanks to a penalty from Santiago Salcedo to climb within two points of joint leaders Libertad of Paraguay and Peruvian champions Universitario. In Group Seven, Universidad Católica of Chile needed a late equaliser from forward Juan Jose Morales to scrape a 1-1 draw at home to Caracas FC.

The Venezuelan side took the lead five minutes after halftime through defender Jaime Bustamante, who volleyed home from Dario Figueroa's free kick. Striker Zamir Valoyes could have given Caracas victory but his two efforts in quick succession hit the woodwork four minutes from time. In their next attack Pablo Camacho hit the post.

Católica, "UC" fans jeered the team after their poor performance and called for outspoken and self-proclaimed "Mourinho-like" coach Marco Antonio Figueroa to be sacked.

Goals galore in the EPL title race



Chelsea issued a signal of premier-ship intent to title rivals Manchester United and Arse-

nal with an emphatic 7-1 demolition of Champions League chasing Aston Villa at Stamford Bridge on Saturday.

On the back of their 5-0 drubbing of Portsmouth midweek, the Blues continued their goal scoring form which has seen them net 12 goals in two games. Frank Lampard also increased his career total, pitching in with four goals to move his number of tally at Chelsea to 151 and to the third-highest scorer in the club's history.

Lampard opened the scoring but the Villans equalised through John Carew. Lampard then restored his side's lead from the penalty spot and Chelsea upped the gears with Lampard grabbing another double, Florent Malouda chimed in with a brace and substitute Solomon Kalou completed the demolition.

The win lifted Chelsea to the summit of the league temporarily, but Manchester United's 4-0 win over Bolton Wanderers at the Reebok Stadium meant the Red Devils reclaimed top spot.

With Wayne Rooney out through injury, Dimitar Berbatov took over the goal scoring duties, netting a brace either side of a JIloyd Samuel own goal and a strike from Darron Gibson substitute – his first touch after coming off the bench.

United remain one point clear of Chelsea, while Arsenal are now four points adrift after they had to settle for a 1-1 draw with Birmingham City after conceding in the final seconds of the match. The Gunners took 80 minutes to break the deadlock when Samir Nasri fired in a long-range effort that looked to put his side on track for victory, but substitute Kevin Phillips came off the bench and scored a last-gasp equaliser to severely dent Arsenal's title tilt.

Hull City gave themselves hope of Premier League survival when the ended a run of six straight defeats with a 2-0 victory over Fulham at the KC Stadium. In his second match in charge of the Tigers, Iain Dowie secured his first victory under the helm of Hull, which will give his side a boost going into the final seven games of the season.

Former Fulham midfielder Jimmy Bul-lard scored the opener 16 minutes in and striker Craig Fagan completed the scoring early in the second half.

Gianfranco Zola is a marked man after his side fell to their sixth consecutive defeat losing 10 at home at Upton Park to Stoke City.

Zola has been charged with saving the Hammers from the drop but it is reported a replacement is being sourced to help the London side avoid the drop.

Substitute Ricardo Fuller scored a fantastic solo effort for the only goal of the match, which leaves West Ham fourth from bottom, but equal with third-last Hull on 27 points.

Tottenham took a step closer to European qualification through a 2-0 win over bottom placed Portsmouth through Peter Crouch and Niko Kranjcar goals.



Dimitar Berbatov inspires Man Utd to a 4-0 win over Bolton that restores their narrow lead at the top of the Premier League.

Elsewhere, Wolverhampton Wanderers secured an important scoreless draw with Everton to move a step closer to safety.



GERMANY
Schalke moved to the top of the Bundesliga thanks to a Kevin Kuranyi brace which gave them a 2-0 victory over Bayer Leverkusen and Bayern Munich slumped to their second defeat in two matches.

Kuranyi netted two first-half goals to give the Royal Blues all three points against third-placed Leverkusen to move two points clear of Munich at the top of the table.

Bayern earlier lost 2-1 to Stuttgart after taking the an early lead.

Munich was on track for victory when Ivic Olic but his side in front, but Christian Träsch and Ciprian Marica swung the pendulum in Stuttgart's favour.

Bayern and Schalke meet next weekend in what will be a mouth-watering showdown of the second and first placed sides and could we decide the title.

Elsewhere, an Edin Dzeko double gave Wolfsburg a 2-0 victory over Mainz, while ten-man Werder Bremen held out for a 4-2 home victory over Nurnberg.

Cologne increased their chances of avoiding relegation with an impressive 4-1 victory over Hannover and Hertha Berlin and Borussia Dortmund played out a 0-0 draw.



SPAIN
Barcelona were back on top of the La Liga table on Saturday after claiming the scalp of Real Mallorca who had won 12 out of 13 home games before their clash with the Catalan giants.

Zlatan Ibrahimovic's solo strike was enough to hand Barca all three points

and send them three points clear at the top of the La Liga table.

However, Real Madrid had the chance to leap-frog their rivals on goal difference when they played on Sunday night.

Relegation-threatened Real Zaragoza gave their hopes of survival an excellent boost when they downed ten-man Valencia 3-0 while Tenerife and Malaga settled for a share of the spoils in a 1-1 draw.



SCOTLAND
A Robbie Keane double, which took his goal tally to 11 from 11 games since he moved on loan from Tottenham, helped Celtic to a 3-1 victory over Kilmarnock in the Scottish Premier League.

With newly-appointed manager Neil Lennon in charge of his first game, Keane's brace and a single from Scott Brown moved the Hoops to ten points behind leaders and Glasgow rivals, Rangers.

Rangers have a formidable lead and ensure it remained at a commanding ten points when they recorded a 4-1 win over Hearts.

Hibernian are on track for a Europa League berth after they threw Falkirk into further relegation trouble with a 3-1 victory, while ten-man Dundee United responded to Paul Dixon's dismissal by ending Motherwell's 12 match unbeaten run with an excellent 3-0 victory.

Aberdeen also earned three points despite having Steve MacLean sent off as they beat St Mirren 2-1.

In Saturday's other match, Hamilton cruised to a 1-0 victory over St Johnstone.



Stuttgart's defender Georg Niedermeier (L) fights for the ball with Bayern Munich's striker Miroslav Klose during their Bundesliga match in Munich

BUNDESLIGA

	P	GD	PTS
1 Schalke 04	28	24	58
2 Bayern Munich	28	29	56
3 Bayer Leverkusen	28	26	53
4 Borussia Dortmund	28	13	49
5 Werder Bremen	28	23	48
6 Hamburg	27	16	44
7 VfB Stuttgart	28	5	41
8 Eintracht Frankfurt	28	-3	41
9 Wolfsburg	28	1	40
10 Mainz	28	-6	38
11 TSG Hoffenheim	27	3	33
12 Cologne	28	-8	31
13 Borussia M'gladbach	27	-12	31
14 VfL Bochum	28	-21	27
15 Nuremberg	28	-21	25
16 Hannover 96	28	-24	23
17 SC Freiburg	27	-24	23
18 Hertha Berlin	28	-21	19

Bayer Leverkusen 0-2 Schalke 04
Bayern Munich 1-2 VfB Stuttgart
Hannover 96 1-4 Cologne
Hertha Berlin 0-0 Borussia Dortmund
Mainz 0-2 Wolfsburg
Bremen 4-2 Nuremberg
VfL Bochum 1-2 Eintracht Frankfurt

EPL

	P	GD	PTS
1 Man Utd	32	51	72
2 Chelsea	32	53	71
3 Arsenal	32	40	68
4 Tottenham	31	28	58
5 Man City	30	16	53
6 Liverpool	31	18	51
7 Aston Villa	31	11	51
8 Everton	32	8	49
9 Birmingham	32	-4	45
10 Stoke	31	-5	39
11 Fulham	31	-3	38
12 Blackburn	31	-16	38
13 Sunderland	31	-6	35
14 Wolves	32	-22	32
15 Bolton	32	-24	32
16 Wigan	31	-30	31
17 West Ham	32	-17	27
18 Hull	31	-33	27
19 Burnley	31	-33	24
20 Portsmouth	32	-32	13

Birmingham 1-1 Arsenal
Bolton 0-4 Man Utd
Chelsea 7-1 Aston Villa
Hull 2-0 Fulham
Tottenham 2-0 Portsmouth
West Ham 0-1 Stoke
Wolves 0-0 Everton

SPL

	P	GD	PTS
1 Rangers	29	51	70
2 Celtic	31	25	60
3 Dundee Utd	30	9	52
4 Hibernian	30	10	50
5 Motherwell	31	3	48
6 Hearts	31	-8	40
7 St Johnstone	30	-8	35
8 Aberdeen	30	-9	34
9 Hamilton	31	-16	33
10 St Mirren	31	-12	27
11 Kilmarnock	31	-19	26
12 Falkirk	31	-26	22

Celtic 3-1 Kilmarnock
Hearts 1-4 Rangers
Dundee United 3-0 Motherwell
Aberdeen 2-1 St Mirren
Falkirk 1-3 Hibernian
Hamilton 1-0 St Johnstone

SERIE A

	P	GD	PTS
1 Inter Milan	31	30	63
2 Roma	31	21	62
3 AC Milan	30	20	59
4 Palermo	31	8	51
5 Sampdoria	30	1	47
6 Napoli	30	4	45
7 Juventus	30	3	45
8 Genoa	30	0	43
9 Bari	30	1	42
10 Fiorentina	30	4	41
11 Parma	30	-7	41
12 Cagliari	30	1	39
13 Chievo	30	-2	37
14 Catania	30	-1	35
15 Bologna	31	-10	35
16 Lazio	30	-6	32
17 Udinese	30	-8	32
18 Atalanta	30	-12	28
19 Siena	30	-21	25
20 Livorno	30	-26	24

Palermo 3-1 Bologna
Roma 2-1 Inter Milan
Napoli 3-1 Juventus

LA LIGA

	P	GD	PTS
1 Barcelona	29	53	74
2 Real Madrid	28	54	71
3 Valencia	29	13	53
4 Mallorca	29	12	47
5 Sevilla	28	8	45
6 Athletic Bilbao	28	2	42
7 Deportivo	28	-1	42
8 Atletico Madrid	28	0	37
9 Getafe	28	0	37
10 Villarreal	28	-1	37
11 Almeria	28	-6	36
12 Sporting Gijon	28	-5	35
13 Espanyol	28	-15	32
14 Malaga	29	-2	31
15 Osasuna	28	-7	31
16 Racing	28	-11	31
17 Real Zaragoza	29	-18	29
18 Tenerife	29	-29	25
19 Valladolid	28	-18	24
20 Xerez	28	-29	19

Malaga 1-1 Tenerife
Mallorca 0-1 Barcelona
Real Zaragoza 3-0 Valencia



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Melbourne's marvelous Magyars

‘ELEVEN men under sentence of death sat quietly in the South Melbourne stand watching their first game of Australian soccer.

It was one of the showpieces—the 1957 Sun Cup Final. Within 15 minutes they had weighed up the sides. And they all said the same: “Give us a fortnight’s training, and we could beat either of these teams easily.” The teams were JUST, winner of the Cup for three consecutive seasons, and the hard-hitting Dutch outfit, Wilhelmina. The 11 men—all Hungarians and all on the Russians’ black list for their part in the “October Rising”—had been in Australia only five weeks.’ That is how Soccer News announced the arrival of a new force in Australian football, a club to be called Melbourne, consisting of Hungarian refugees led by an Englishman, Vic Manson, formerly with Footscray and Park Rangers.

Six of the players had played with top clubs in Hungary including Bukkos, Jozsef Voros, Vass, Holl, Zolnai and Vathy. Others to take part in 1957 included Rozsahegy, Dorogi, Tibor Szalay, Ferenc Szalay, Tonok, Lew Urban, Zoltan Zavodski, Geza Pethyanszuy, Szathmary, Szandy, Jozsef Csardas, Louis Varnai and Taczi. Various sources suggest that some of these were members of the Hungarian Olympic football team which took part in the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne, but this is incorrect. The Hungarian Olympic football team had been withdrawn in September long before the Russian tanks rolled into Budapest. It was the absence of the football team which threw the spotlight on to the Hungarian water polo squad which took part in the famous ‘red water match’ against the Russians in Melbourne.

Lacking nothing in ambition, the Hungarians set their targets for the first season in Victorian football. They would aim to win the Metropolitan South Division, the Dockerty Cup and the Laidlaw World Cup, the Sunday tournament for national groups which was one of the biggest drawcards on the Victorian football calendar in the 1950s. Melbourne duly won Metropolitan South by eight points from Croatia, scoring 143 goals and conceding only 18 in 18 games. After only three games the team had knocked in 30 goals, 20 being scored by Bukkos and Voros. When Croatia met Melbourne in Round Six there was a pitch invasion and the match was abandoned, but otherwise the performance of the Hungarians in the league was so good it led to calls for their being promoted while the season was still under way.

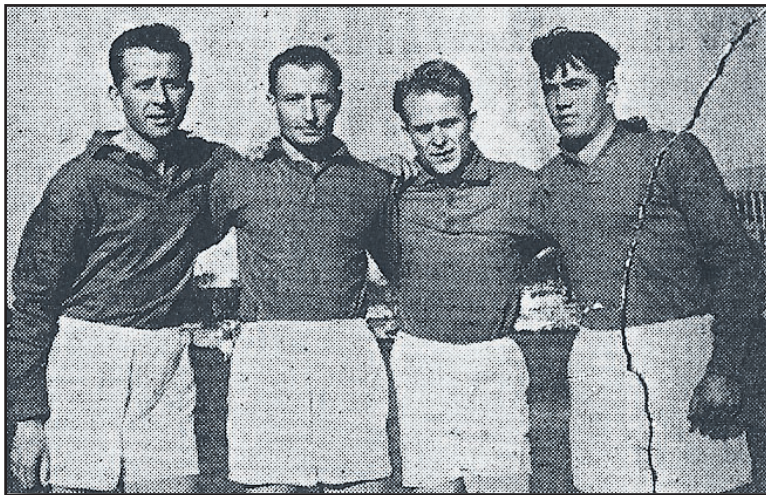
In the Dockerty Cup Melbourne met Moreland, the eventual winner, in the second round and bowed out by two goals to one. It was the Scots who put the Hungarians out of the World Cup in 1957 too, but not before Joe Voros had scored a second-half hat-trick to draw the first encounter between the nations. Scotland won the replay.

Victorian football had a Hungarian flavour in 1957 for that year Ferencvaros toured Australia, playing both Victoria and another touring team, F K Austria, in Melbourne. Though Victoria was hammered by six goals to one, 16 500 packed in to Olympic Park to see ‘Fradi’ in action. Ferencvaros also accounted for the Austrians by three goals to one. Ferenc Stegner of Richmond was another top class Hungarian player in Victoria in 1957, though he

had spent some years in Germany before emigrating. A former Hungarian international, Jules Forgasc, played with Hakoah and Maccabi that year too.

Melbourne played in Division One South in 1958 and 1959, winning promotion to the State League in 1959, again by eight points, and scoring exactly 100 goals. In its first season in the top league Melbourne finished a creditable third behind Polonia and George Cross. The squad in 1960 included Ernie Grosz, Fabian Juhasz, Tibor Zuckerman, Vajda, Joe Voros, Tibor Becsi, Vacirca, Garrett, Bill Vass, Gyula Pribil, Charlie Fekete, Szalai, Frank Bors, Janos Weinberg, Joe Banhidi, Charlie Kaiser and Tommy Sal.

After several near misses, Melbourne finally won the State League title in 1967. That year it also won the Australia Cup. Melbourne Hungaria defeated APIA from Sydney by four-three. Irish international-



ist Bill Walsh was coach. In the final of the Australia Cup, Atti Abonyi, who was to play with the Socceroos for a decade including the World Cup in Germany in 1974, scored a hat-trick. The 1967 Hungaria squad in the State League included Henry Surma, Tony Gregal, Bill McGowan, Ian Shanks, Alistair Scott, Bob Connolly, Peter Kurta, Atti Abonyi, Frank Stoffels, Bill Deszofi, Tom Fowler and Col Myers.

In 1973 Melbourne won the night football tournament for the Ampol Cup, beating Ringwood City Wilhelmina in the final by three goals to two after extra time. Steve Bleskany got the decisive goal. By now the playing composition of the club had changed significantly. Like many other clubs, Melbourne had a nucleus of Scottish players. The squad that year included Charlie Odri, David Fearn, Gordon Bentley, Charlie Kelly, Joe Szabo, Alistair Scott, Ian Shanks, Joe Palinkas, John Wallace, George Kotaridis, Bill Spears, Mike Manson, Steve Bleskany and Ian McCarthy.

Two years later Melbourne was relegated from the State League and after another disappointing season in 1977 it went down to Division Two of the Metropolitan League. That sparked a mini-revival which resulted in a top of the table finish in 1978, but 1979 saw the club relegated once again. After three years of struggle Melbourne got back into Division One at the end of 1982 as champion of the Second Division. Three more years saw another promotion.



Melbourne Hungaria around 1967. Back row, left to right: Tony Gregal, Alistair Scott (capt) Henry Surma, Tom Fowler, Dresp, Sampson, Col Myers, Clark. Front row: McGowan, Ian Shanks, Bob Connolly, Frank Stoffels, Peter Kurta, Hahn. Photo: Uwe Kuessner. Laurie Schwab collection. Deakin University Library.



Geza Pettyanzky saves for Melbourne against Moreland in the Dockerty Cup. Source: Soccer News, 29 June 1957, p. 3.



Melbourne Hungaria in the 1980s. Back row, left to right: George Buchanan (assistant coach), John Wallace, John Vathis, Joe Kiss, Tibor Drinoczky, Danny Ward, Marcelo Barbas, Pat Bannon (coach), Steve Wild, Lou Szantho (team manager). Front row: Tony Heery, Mark Dagnall, John Bird, Lou Theodos, Paris Tzambazis, Gerry Edmondson, Frank Szabadi, Kevin Roberts. Photo: Les Shorrock. Deakin University Library.

Melbourne came top of Division One in 1985. Among the players that season were Danny Ward, Lou Theodos, Kevin Roberts, Costa Theodosopoulos, Tony Heery, Pat Bannon, Burt, Gerry Edmondson and

John Bird.

But the club was struggling as immigration from Hungary had fallen away and the founding generation aged. In 1986 the club finished last in the State League and

was relegated. In 1987 it was tailed off in Division One and the club bowed to the hard demographic facts and ceased to field a football team, though the social club was to continue.

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KAT'S CORNER

With Peter Katholos

The search for a new Soccerroo coach has officially begun in earnest, and I'm sure this is not going to be the easiest task in the world.

The committee that has been assigned to deliver the goods and get the right man for this unique position will no doubt have a challenge on their hands. Let's not kid ourselves, it has broken many a man in the past, and as Pim Verbeek stipulated, it is indeed "one of the hardest jobs in football", referring to the distance required to travel just to keep a tab on players playing in our domestic league, Europe, and pretty much every other corner of the globe. The FFA can thank their lucky stars that Qantas is a major partner!

I'm sure the criteria stipulated to recruit a worthy candidate; one who is able to deliver within the budget and able to implement the desired style, not to mention continuing the momentum of success experienced by Australian football

of recent times, will no doubt be a massive decision.

The main thing for me, is he must believe in the same style that has been set out by our national director and that is emphasis on technical footballers and encouraging creative play.

I'll go back to the 2006 World Cup clash between Australia v Italy, we are playing with an extra man and we continue to play long balls into the middle of the Italian defense. Not once did any player have the confidence to take on a player on in the last third, or play a quick one-two, or execute that killer pass, nothing! I remember ringing the SBS World Cup team in Germany and I told Les Murray "where is our creative midfielders, this is what Australia lacks, we should have beaten Italy today." These feelings were echoed by many at the time.

I hope we have learned from these mistakes and hope our Soccerroos will have a

go this time around. So let's see who can fit these criteria. What the Soccerroos need is a coach that has been successful in playing good football and simultaneously delivering the right results.

Well, a few names have been rattled but when I heard about Frank Rijkaard as a possible candidate to coach the Soccerroos, I thought bingo! Here is a man that has done it all. He has coached the Barcelona team that won the Champions League with one of the most entertaining teams in world football, one that included Ronaldinho and Messi. He believes in attacking football, and he has been a successful footballer and a well respected coach.

He is also another Dutchman that fits in well with our current Dutch influence and he also likes Aussies, as he has signed Harry Kewell and Lucas Neil at Galatasaray in Turkey. Johan Neeskens, his current assistant coach, was also Gus Hiddink's assistant coach at the previous

World Cup.

Also, another name that has been mentioned is Marco van Basten, and although he has not achieved the similar level of coaching success as Frank, I would not hesitate to give him the job either. A great striker, one of the best in world football, who was coached by the best, and who also had a stint coaching the Holland national team.

I'm sure the committee would be thinking along the same lines and I just hope they can agree on the contract conditions, as well as living with the task of travelling back and forth to Europe. I'm sure there are others that would put their hand up, and I'll be happy whoever Australia picks as our next World Cup coach, as long as they fit the criteria mentioned above.

Let's not forget the Rudi Gudendorf disaster. We've obviously come a long way since then, and may we long continue to progress in the right direction.



Frankie, baby! A player's player and a player's coach. Could Rijkaard be the Soccerroos' next Messiah?

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THE KATSA

With George Katsamboukas

J WALKER SCOREBOARD 1-5
In a sponsorship deal to end all deals, the good folk from J Walker have come to the party and will donate a 750 ML Bottle of J Walker to departing Coaches.

The Scorer awoke from a weary slumber to record the first wicket for the Premier League Season, that being Peter "Olly" Ollerton who parted company with Green Gully during the week.

If my alcohol affected memory serves me well, "Olly" has had a few stints at Gully, and this is not uncommon here in Victoria where Coaches follow the Elizabeth Taylor/Richard Burton theory and go back to have another go.

Only difference is that these types of reconciliations usually end up in a very sad end.

"Olly", you can collect your bottle from any good liquor outlet.

The Scorer is on stand by this week as there are also a number of other "Gaffers"

whose jobs are about as safe as Smarties in a Kindergarten.

Over the the A-League Final we go, where Andy Harper from Foxtel fame was relegated to the bench for the big one.

He did however provide some very enlightening pre match and post match reports.

Sydney FC took out the double for the year, winning the match on penalties. There were some willing tackles during the Big One, one notable one was from a Sydney FC player who collected his Victory opponent in such a way, that it jeopardizes the Sydney FC player's chances of having future Father's Days.

I watched the big one with some younger punters who were quite impressed with some of the tackles, however, I did remind them that it paled into insignificance with the 1984 Grand Final Between South Melbourne and Sydney Olympic, where Kenny "aluminium shin guards" Murphy collected more Sydney Olympic players

than a Stamp Collector.

Just ask Jimmy Patikas, he would still have fond memories of those games! Back the Big One we go, where Ernie's Boys, having lost the Grand Final, then had to make a "Midnight Express" run to Tullamarine Airport to catch a 1am flight to Asia where they were due to play a their Asian Champions League match on Tuesday against Kawasaki Frontale.

Surely the Latte' Boys from the FFA could have arranged this somewhat better in conjunction with their Saki drinking counterparts from the Asian FA? Imagine if Victory had won, their celebrations would have been limited to a can of 7Up on the flight over.

Until Nex Week,
This is Katsa - just as you have known him.
And remember, keep your friends close and your Club Powerbrokers closer.



Kenny Murphy about to add Trevor Francis' shin to his collection during the Australia versus England match in 1983.
PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON



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BOO'S WORLD

With Mark Boric



I once compared Melbourne Victory to Australian drug traffickers Barlow and Chambers, but the latter were only killed once in Asia. The Bali Nine could probably prove more competitive in the Asian Champion's League than Ernie's boys, even if they'd be a little short on numbers.

It will be a difficult season for Victory next time around if the "No Archie, No Victory" theory is true, because he will be on the sidelines the whole time. I wonder if they can convince the Central Coast Mariners to release Nick Mrdja to them permanently? What a debacle that has proven to be. Maybe they are also hoping Danny Allsopp will last as long at DC United as he did in the Middle East.

With a new season of Football Superstar coming up, I thought I'd help this years coach/selector Ange Postecoglou with some comments he could use to make the show a little

more interesting. Let's start off with some negatives: "This kid is more one footed than Heather Mills"; "He's about as fit as Carlos Hernandez"; "He's got less heart than the Tin Man in The Wizard of Oz"; "Like Stephen Hawking, it's messy when he dribbles" and "He's got the vision of Stevie Wonder".

Onto the positives: "He's a better shot than Michael Diamond"; "He's got real pace, not Steven Pace"; "His workrate is as good as a kid in a Nike sweat shop"; "His heading is on par with Linda Lovelace's" and "It's like the LAPD on Rodney King, he beats his man so easily". For real sparks on the show, however, they should make the Superstars XI play a game against the Craig Foster-coached Nerds FC. It could go up a few levels from what Mancini and Moyes dished up during the week.

Pim Verbeek will be moving on from the Socceroos coaching gig after the World Cup. Will his next employers be Ventura, Grenda's or

Greyhound? All companies who must admire his ability to park the bus.

Plenty of foreign names linked to the coaching vacancy, but there could still be some local candidates. Gary Van Egmond, Mickey Peterson, Adam van Dommele and Nick Van Egmond are all in with an outside chance. Apparently former Test cricketer Bob Holland has even thrown his baggy green hat into the ring.

Speaking of coaching vacancies, there's now one at Green Gully to give all the local non-Dutch coaches some hope. It took four games for the first change to be made, considerably late into the season by normal VPL standards. There must be another couple of coaches really feeling the pressure.

Portsmouth have been docked nine points in the EPL, they mustn't have paid for a table at the Gold Medal Night either. As they are now allowed to sell players to help settle

their debts, look out for the VPL clubs that are allowed to add players to their squads outside the transfer windows to swoop.

It's great to have Tsigan Forever back in the paper, if you are having trouble understanding what is written just go to babelfish.yahoo.com and get it translated.



Scenes from outside the Socceroos boot room during the week.

EASTERN LIONS PRE-SEASON TOURNAMENT

The Eastern Lions Pre-Season Tournament concluded over the weekend as the State League teams prepare for the new season, which kicks off in just over two weeks time. Well done to the Eastern Lions for hosting another successful competition, thoroughly enjoyed by all. Congratulation to Morwell for completing the double and taking out the respective senior and reserve titles.

11:00 am Waverley Wanderers 1 - Sandringham 1 (4th place playoff RESERVES)
12:00 pm Waverley Wanderers 1- Sandringham 1 (4th place playoff SENIORS)
12:25 pm Old Scotch 1 Moreland 3 (3rd place playoff RESERVES)
1:25 pm Old Scotch 0 Moreland 3 (3rd place playoff SENIORS)
1:50 pm Sothern Stars 3 - Nunawading 3 (2nd place playoff RESERVES)
2:50 pm Southern Stars 5 - Nunawading 0 (2nd place playoff SENIORS)
3:15 pm Eastern Lions 0 - Morwell 1 (1st place playoff RESERVES)
4:15 pm Eastern Lions 2 - Morwell 3 (1st place playoff SENIORS)



KRNCEVIC'S CRUNCHLINES

With Eddie Krncevic

Australian soccer legend, Eddie Krncevic represented the Socceroos 35 times and scored 17 goals. He played professionally in Europe for Dimano Zagreb (Croatia), MSV Duisberg (Germany), Mulhouse (France) and Anderlecht, FC Liege, Aalst and Charleroi in Belgium.

Greetings football fans and welcome to another dose of Krncevic's Crunchlines.

ASIAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Overall, it was disappointing to once again see the Australian sides outplayed in the Asian Champions League last week. Adelaide United could count itself lucky to defeat Sanfrece Hiroshima, but the Melbourne Victory was completely outdone and outshone in the first twenty odd minutes against Kawasaki Frontale.

Credit to Victory coach Ernie Merrick for not putting down the loss due to travel and the hangover of the HAL Grand Final played only three days before, though not doubt these obviously would have been considerable factors in the equation. After all, they are meant to be professionals - rain, hail or shine.

The fact of the matter why the Japanese looked sharper, fitter, were able to control the ball and string more than two passes together without looking workmanlike, was purely because their technique is far better than ours.

Their positioning, movement, and anticipation of where to play and receive the next pass, is to be put simply just superior. Sure, the J-League is at a more advanced stage than the A-League, but the huge difference in executing medial tasks of touch, con-

trol, distribution, passing - whether short or long - was once again there for all to see. It was like watching men against boys at times, and unfortunately we also looked very one dimensional.

We can now understand why former Socceroo Alan Davidson choose to send his son, Jason, over to Japan to spend three years in their development system. The result of course, is that 18 year old Jason is now getting a taste of Portuguese First Division football with Paços de Ferreira.

IT'S ALL IN THE DELIVERY

I must admit I tend to disagree with the timing of Pim Verbeek's announcement during the week regarding his tenure as Socceroos coach.

I hope it doesn't hinder the squad's preparations as we draw closer to the World Cup. We all knew his contract was up for review after South Africa, so why highlight it now? There's no doubt that Verbeek has delivered far beyond anyone's expectations - World Cup and Asia Cup qualification, and even achieving our highest ever ranking of 14th in the FIFA rankings - but the attention should surely be focussed on the job at hand, which has yet to be finished.

I'm sure many football purists will be glad to see the back of Pim, but there's no denying he has delivered



Men in Black: Respected referee, Hary Milas, flanked by his sons, Daniel and Nicholas.

results, and I suppose that's why he's still in a job come the Socceroos first match against Germany in Durban. Frank Rijkaard's name has already been thrown around in the press as a likely successor during the week, and it will be interesting to see if the future really is orange once again.

FAMILY AFFAIR

I was pleasantly surprised to learn that the two young men running the line last week at the VPL between Richmond Eagles and Heidelberg United were actually brothers. Nicholas Milas and Daniel Milas, who incidentally,

turned 18 over the weekend, are actually the sons of renowned and respected man in black, Hary Milas. Hary has of course been a well know fixture at VPL and State league games, blowing the whistle in the middle. That was not nearly always the case however, as we almost lost one of our best in more ways than one. You may recall, Hary was stabbed with an umbrella and was nearly killed as the spoke came very close to his heart and spine - whilst watching his son's game back in 2003 - <http://www.theage.com.au/articles/2003/06/30/1056825334937.html>.

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Web: www.melbourneactorslab.com
111-113 Inkerman St, St Kilda, VIC 3182

The incident was the catalyst of the ugly parent syndrome being addressed a lot more seriously by the football authorities.

He is also the Australian referee chosen to follow the Homeless World Cup and will be in Rio this year.

Good to see the boys are keeping the family tradition alive and well, and great to have Hary back out there showing them how it's done.

Feel free to check out Hary's website at refs-world.com




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WAG OF THE WEEK



Alex Curran Age: 26
InSignificant Other: Liverpool Midfielder, Steven Gerrard.

Balkans Scene with Alex Milic

goalweekly.com

Serbia
Partizan has gone to the top momentarily after a late winner by Marko Jovanovic sealed the win away to BSK 2:1.

Cleo gave the black and whites an early lead with his tenth goal of the season but a mix up at the back allowed BSK back into the game, Obrovac's cool finish levelled proceedings. The hosts were only seconds away from collecting a valuable point until Marko Jovanovic saved the day for the away side in second half stoppage time. He headed home from a corner kick sending the gravediggers into delirium.

Spartak and OFK share third position as they both sides won 1:0. Metalac overcame Mladi Radnik 1:0 while Napredak took three very important points at home against Borac Cacak who is now only two points clear of the drop zone.

In the Derby match of round 21, Red Star has the chance to go back on top when they come up against Vojvodina at the 'Marakana' Stadium. The home side has changed managers with Ratko Dostanic the new man in charge after amutual agreement saw Vladimir Petrovic's contract terminated for poor quality of football.

Round 22 will see two top of the table clashes. Partizan faces Spartak while OFK entertain Red Star.

Croatia
Mandzukic found the net twice as Dinamo easily accounted for Inter Zapresic 3:1., Badelj added a third in the second half while Jonjic scored a consolation goal with two minutes remaining.

Cibalia found it hard against second last Zagreb scraping through 1:0 thanks



Mandzukic found the net twice for Dinamo Zagreb



Partizan fans celebrate

BOSNIA

	P	Pts
1 Borac Banja Luka	19	38
2 Zeljeznicar Sarajevo	20	38
3 Sarajevo	20	34
4 Siroki Brijeg	19	34
5 Velez Mostar	20	33
6 Zrinjski Mostar	20	32
7 Leotar Trebinje	20	29
8 Travnik	20	28
9 Olimpik Sarajevo	19	25
10 Rudar Prijedor	20	25
11 Celik Zenica	20	24
12 Slavija Sarajevo	20	23
13 Zvijezda Gradacac	19	23
14 Modrica Maxima	20	21
15 Sloboda Tuzla	19	20
16 Laktasi	19	17

to Bagaric.
The team from Vinkovci are on route for European football winning their twelfth game of the season.

Hajduk are two points away from a Europa League spot as they defeated Varteks 2:0 with goals by Vukusic and Bosnian International Ibricic.

Karlovac continues to exceed all expectations with another impressive result, Rijeka being the culprit in a 2:0 win.



Bosnia
Zeljeznicar defeated Slavia in the Sarajevo derby 2:0. The home side took the lead

through a controversial penalty.

The referee pointed to the spot after a clear dive by Bekric who had no trouble converting the resulting spot kick. Bajic sealed the victory in the second half putting his side on top of the ladder equal on points with Borac Banja Luka.

Velez Mostar thrashed Leotar 6:2. Colic scored a hattrick with ten minutes

CROATIA

	P	GD	Pts
1 Dinamo	22	+51	52
2 Cibalia	22	+22	44
3 Karlovac	22	+11	40
4 Šibenik	22	+2	40
5 Hajduk	22	+19	38
6 Osijek	22	+10	36
7 Lokomotiva	22	+1	35
8 Slaven Belupo	22	-2	32
9 Zadar	22	-10	27
10 Rijeka	22	-1	26
11 Medimurje	22	-19	22
12 Inter Zaprešić	22	-11	21
13 Varteks	22	-15	21
14 Istra 1961	22	-16	20
15 Zagreb	22	-10	19
16 Croatia Sesvete	22	-32	11

SERBIA

	P	GD	Pts
1. Partizan	21	43:12	53
2. Crvena zvezda	20	37:11	52
3. Spartak	21	26:16	36
4. OFK Beograd	21	28:22	36
5. Vojvodina	20	30:18	30
6. Metalac	21	18:24	30
8. Jagodina	21	23:22	29
7. Javor	20	14:14	26
9. Smederevo	21	21:25	26
10. Borac	21	15:28	23
11. BSK	21	17:24	22
12. Napredak	21	21:27	21
13. Mladi radnik	21	15:25	21
14. Hajduk	21	20:31	20
15. Rad	20	21:28	19
16. Cukaricki	21	15:37	15

remaining ensuring an impressive win for his side. In other games - Travnik overcame Sarajevo 1:0, Modrica lost at home to Celik 1:0 while Rudar suprside Zrinjski with a 2:0 victory.

League leaders Borac have the opportunity to go three clear at the top when they take on Zvijezda in Banja Luka.

FULL NAME: Amadu Ishmael Koroma
BIRTHPLACE: Sierra Leone (West Africa)
BIRTH DATE: 17 December 1991
HEIGHT: 178cm
WEIGHT: 68kg
MARRIED: Single
CAR: Don't have one yet.
NICKNAME: Armi
PREVIOUS CLUBS: New Town Eagles
REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS: Southern Tasmania under-13s and 15s winning Festival Cup and runner-up for Launceston Cup; Two times top goal scorer seniors and U19s; one-time winner of Vikings Futsal all-school titles; All-star top Futsal player at Nationals; Runner-up of 2010 Summer Cup, Two times runner-up at Futsal nationals. Represented Tasmania Youth Team against A-League youth sides in 2008; Southern Tasmania senior men's squad 2009; travelled with the Australian U19s Vikings Futsal team to Brazil at age 16; Soccer Tasmania Futsal most valuable player award.
CHILDHOOD FOOTBALL HERO: Zidane/Ronaldinho
FAVOURITE O/S PLAYER: Ronaldinho and Fabregas
FAVOURITE HAL PLAYER: Hernandez (Melbourne Victory)
FAVOURITE FORMER SOCCEROO: Craig Foster
FAVOURITE CURRENT SOCCEROO: Harry Kewell
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A PLAYER: For Glenorchy Knights, my present club, against New Town Eagles. We were 1-0 down and I scored 2 goals and set up one to win the game. The first goal I scored was the best I have ever scored.
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A FAN: Last year's final between South Hobart and Clarence United.
MOST MEMORABLE GOAL YOU'VE SCORED: It was against Green Gully in a pre-season match. I came on for ten minutes for Melbourne Knights and I scored a goal that I will always remember.
EARLIEST FOOTBALL MEMORY: Playing for a school team for the first time in my life at age 11.
FUNNIEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL: When I first came to Australia (I was 11 at the time) and I went to the oval to have a kick with anyone that I saw, but there was no-one at the oval like back home, so I was in tears because I didn't have anyone to have a kick with.
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Missing a penalty
WORST INJURY: Knee injury (it was hurting me for four months)
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Daniel Brown of South Hobart
FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND: South Hobart
SUPERSTITIONS: Breaking a mirror is said to bring 7 years of bad luck
TYPICAL MATCH DAY MEAL: Pasta
WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS: Skill, speed and passing
WHAT ARE YOUR WEAKNESSES: Heading the ball, and being unselfish
FAVOURITE TEAM WHEN GROWING UP: Liverpool
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Futsal
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTSPERSON: Kobe Bryant, a basketball player for the LA-Lakers, who is one of the best in the world. He is a motivator that's why I like him.
FAVOURITE FOODS: Pasta
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: (007) Daniel Craig
HOBBIES: Soccer, Futsal, Athletics and Fita
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Brazil (Rio de Janeiro)
FAVOURITE NIGHTSPOT: Salamanca
IDEAL DATE: My birthday, the day I was born, is special
FAVOURITE TV SHOWS: I don't watch much TV. I just like watching soccer (The World Game on SBS)
FAVOURITE MUSIC: Soca dance from Africa
FAVOURITE FILM: Avatar, and Goal 1, 2 and 3
LAST SOCCER SHIRT YOU BOUGHT: A Liverpool shirt
FUNNIEST RUMOUR YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT YOURSELF: That I need to start scoring
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My Dad
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Being injured
FOOTBALL AMBITION: To play on the Mainland and to play A-League.
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET?: Ronaldinho
YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S WORLD CUP: Spain



Amadu Koroma

Glenorchy Knights FC

PHOTO: WALTER PLESS



With Leroy Robinson



Life Is Sweet For The Toffees

By Leroy Robinson

It has been a strange season thus far, what with the demise of Liverpool and the emergence of Spurs and Manchester City. Yet nothing has outlined the bizarre way the season has unfolded more than Liverpool's Merseyside neighbours Everton. At this juncture of the season would you really have believed there would be only three points separating the teams going into this weekend's fixtures?

Their proximity as clubs and their respective league position are about all they have in common. Talk this week from the Everton end has been of getting into Europe via their league position. In terms of current form they are behind only Arsenal and tied with Man United and Spurs. The 0-0 draw at Wolves has probably put paid to this but that such talk was not ridiculed is testimony to the turnaround at the club.

This is in part due to Moyes having a healthy squad and to his ability in the transfer market. Astute purchases of Bilyaletdinov, Mikel Arteta and even the recent loan acquisition of Landon Donovan are testimony to his success. Over the years Moyes supplemented these players by making off the radar purchases like Phil Jagielka, Leighton Baines and the departed Joleon Lescott.

For a club with nothing like the finances of the top four clubs the success of these types of purchases are the key to their league position. Get them wrong and you have mediocre players from the lower leagues rotting in the reserves and get them right and you have England internationals who you can get Manchester City to overpay for. Am I the only one who thinks City bought the wrong centre back – Jagielka for me being the better defender?

This is exactly the type of astute scouting and buying policy that evades his counterpart from across Stanley Park. The key to it all, in my opinion, is Everton know their place in the EPL hierarchy. Everton fans may see themselves as a big club on a par with Liverpool but the truth is the two are worlds apart in terms of worldwide support, history, merchandising and success.

Yet success is a relative term and given the budgets of both clubs this season Everton fans can rightly hold their head up high. Things started very poorly. A

6-0 home defeat to Arsenal had the fans shell-shocked but Moyes did what he always does. He spoke of the defeat in rational tones, not getting too emotional about it and thanking his lucky stars they only play Arsenal twice a year. It must also be said the defeat came on the back of speculation that Lescott wanted to leave and of problems between he and Moyes. This could be due to Moyes being a belligerent Scot who takes no crap from players.

On the other hand, he is a great man-manager who tells players what he thinks to their faces, something which has garnered him respect and added to the togetherness of the squad. That was why the meltdown at home to Arsenal was so unexpected and why he had to get rid of Lescott. He does have a forgiving side. When he had a bust-up earlier in the season with 21-year old Nigerian Victor Anichebe, the youngster could have been cast out by Moyes and sent away on loan but instead he kept him and has challenged the youngster to work harder in training and to work harder at his game.

One of the real strengths of Everton has been their hard work. There is a sense to me when I watch them that no one player is more important than the component parts of the team. Anyone watching the 2-0 win against Man City last Wednesday will be struck by the way the team closed down the sky blues from the 1st minute to the 90th. Moyes teams play with the sort of collective effort one should expect from all EPL teams. Even the star players like Cahill and Arteta fit within this team structure and have bought into the work ethic. When that happens the less talented players are bound to follow.

Yet if they're so good why are they only 8th?

Given Everton's ground holds 40,000 you would have them down as a big club right? Wrong. Once upon a time, so the fable goes, Everton were part of a big 5 along with Arsenal, Spurs, Liverpool and Manchester United.

When Bill Kenwright took over as chairman from Sir Philip Carter hopes were high. People had this unrealistic expectation that because Kenwright is a lifelong blue nose he would sanction Abramovich-style spending. Kenwright has always had Everton's long term interests at heart and wasn't going to pay for success now



Everton manager David Moyes stands alone as one of the rare managers in the modern game that can successfully build a competitive side without the benefit of a massive budget.

by getting into debts. Moyes's spending has been frugal, more like that of Arsene Wenger, adding one or two components to the team year-on-year and getting rid of the odd disgruntled player for big money.

The upshot of this is that they have to rely on a productive youth system and Moyes ability in the transfer market. The downside is that if they get injuries to key players like Pienaar, Arteta and Cahill they are royally buggered because there is no-one even close to them in terms of taking their place. That is precisely what happened earlier in the season. At some point they have had injuries to Saha (nothing new there), Jagielka, Arteta and Cahill. The one positive though has been the emergence of youngsters Jack Rodwell Leon Osman.

The other problem they have is location. Unlike Arsenal, who has London to attract the better young (foreign) players, Merseyside isn't as big an attraction. So the Everton manager not only has to compete with London and Manchester he has much bigger neighbours as competition too.

If there were no injuries ever in foot-

ball Everton would finish in the top six year-on-year. For evidence look no further than the win at Eastlands against a Manchester City team assembled with hundreds of millions of pounds more than Moyes has to spend.

As for their future, I have a saying; any club that is still playing at the same ground when I was growing up needs to change stadia. I've been to Goodison Park in the late 80s/early 90s and even then I had the impression of a run-down cinema trying to eek out a few more movies just prior to being demolished. If they can get a stadium holding 60,000 – even share with Liverpool – it would transform them like it did Arsenal. Fans do not want this and I understand, but when someone like Kenwright thinks it may be in your best interests I would take notice.

Players would want to play there and fans would want to watch. Though this is just one part of what should be their strategy. For the other part they just need to continue doing what they are doing. As long as they buy low and sell high and have a youth system that continually produces the raw talent like Rooney and

Rodwell to strengthen the Toffeemen this can only be of benefit to them and the EPL.

Adebayor Has A Gun

I had to add this as an addendum to my article because it made me laugh, plus it's rare for me to defend Adebayor, the man who epitomises the modern-day eBay footballer - loyal to the highest bidder.

He was spotted at a 50 Cent concert in Manchester wearing a t-shirt with a gun on the front. According to all accounts due to the gun attack on the Togolese bus at the African Cup of Nations he should refrain from wearing such garb.

"I was very shocked considering the Africa shooting. His fashion choice is tasteless. It's inappropriate for him to promote guns as 'cool'," said an onlooker according to The Sun newspaper.

This makes me wonder: If this is promoting guns then surely anyone wearing a Manchester United shirt could be accused of promoting Satan?

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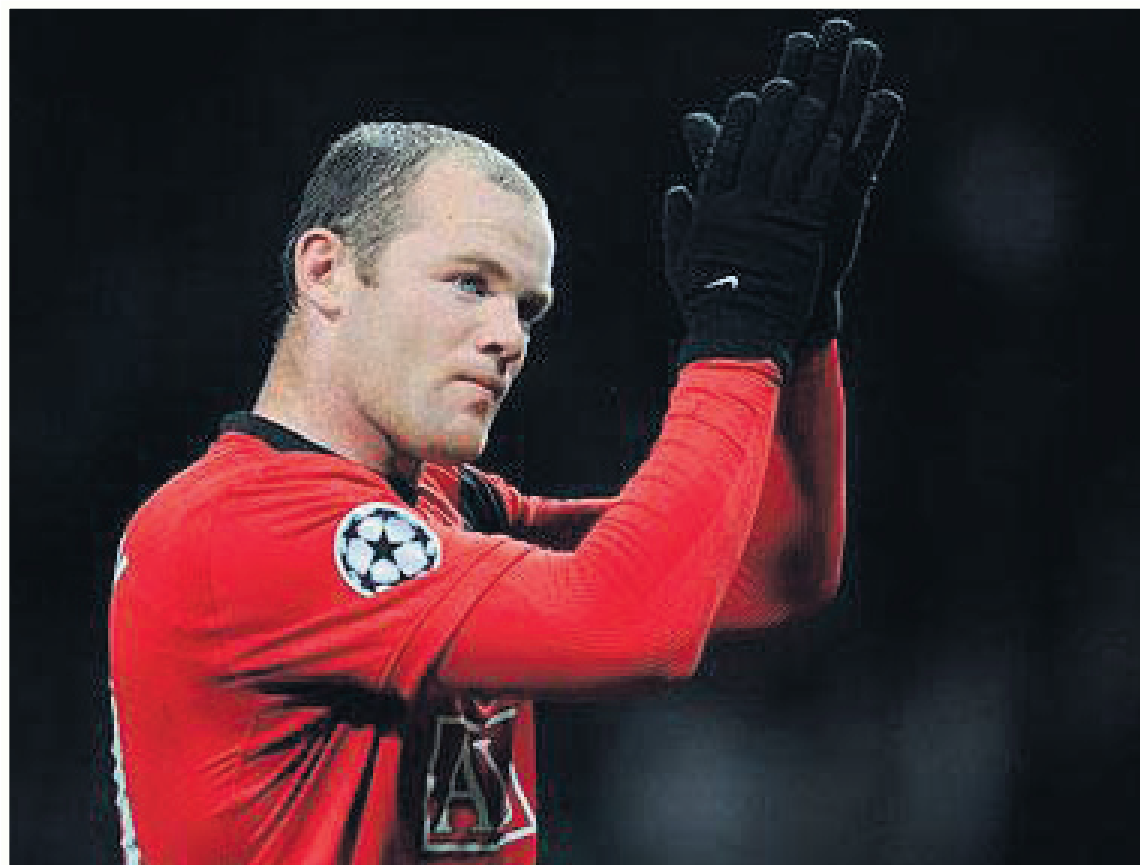
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With Adam North



By Adam North

THIS season in the English Premier League, one man has stood above all the rest. Wayne Rooney is without a doubt the best player in the Premier League right now, and he is playing better than he ever has before. And not only is he the best player in England, but he may be the best player in the world.

In reality there is probably a shortlist of two in regards to being the 'best player in the world'. Those men are Wayne Rooney and Barcelona's Lionel Messi. Both are still young, still improving, and are without doubt the best talents in their respective leagues. And as each season passes, with both continually improving, their chances of being added to the list of greatest ever players increases.

In the case of Rooney there are almost too many attributes to list. He is surprisingly quick, strong and agile, and he is probably the best technical English player that we have seen on these shores for quite a while. For Manchester United he has played behind a striker, wide on the wings and up front on his own, and has excelled wherever he has been asked to play. And that highlights one of his

great attributes as a player, as not only is he a great talent, he works his proverbial socks off every game.

Rooney is exactly the sort of player that every manager or fan would want in their side. As I have said, he has amazing levels of desire, which can often overflow into anger, and I get the sense from him that you wouldn't be surprised to see him up the park with his mates when he's not training. United boss Sir Alex Ferguson has actually suggested that it's difficult to tell Rooney he's not in a starting line-up, even for a friendly, as he wants to play every minute of every game. Even his strangely potato-shaped head seems just right for a national hero.

And what is scary for those who oppose him is that he is getting better. This season he has scored more goals than ever before, approaching over forty goals for the season, a truly remarkable landmark. And added to those he can score with his feet have been several headed goals, a prowess previously unknown to Rooney fans. In his career so far, from a young upstart at Everton, to the main man at the biggest club in England if not the world, Rooney has grown as both a player, and as a man. I'm sure United fans are thanking whichever God they pray to for Rooney, because so far this season he has carried them to possible title and Eu-

ropean success almost on his own.

The dominant figure at Manchester United over the previous two seasons had been Cristiano Ronaldo, now a Real Madrid player. Ronaldo was the best player at United, or at least that is what everyone would have you believe, and it was he who spearheaded the United attack which won three consecutive titles. Like Rooney, Ronaldo was quick and strong, had excellent technique, was good in the air, and scored bags of goals.

I'm sure that many Manchester United fans were not too happy to see him leave, especially since Ferguson chose not to bring in a big name replacement for his former star. Yet as is often the case, sometimes one big star can overshadow others that are just as good, if not better, than they are. And this has been the case at United, as the Red Devil's lost their biggest and best star, only to find a replacement who is even better. I for one would take a Wayne Rooney over a Ronaldo any day.

And the credit for United staying at the top of the table, as well as being in the quarter-finals of the Champions League, has to be placed squarely on the broad shoulders of Rooney. Of course the great man himself Sir Alex Ferguson is always the biggest part of any United

Where would United be without Wayne Rooney?

success, but from a footballing standpoint Wayne Rooney is the heartbeat of the Manchester club.

So far this season he has scored thirty three goals in all competitions for his team, in only thirty nine games played. In terms of the league he has scored twenty six goals from only twenty nine games. In total United have scored seventy two league goals, meaning Rooney has scored over a third of United's Premier League goals, a better rate than both Drogba at Chelsea and Fabregas at Arsenal.

And in case the numbers are a little confusing, let's just look at one game in particular. In United's Champions League clash with AC Milan, probably their biggest game of the season so far, the English side were taking a bit of a beating, and Milan were looking to take a dominant lead to Old Trafford. Yet Rooney netted two headers from out of nowhere to help United to a three to two win, their first ever victory at Milan's home, the San Siro. He has also scored against title rivals Arsenal this season, and I wouldn't bet against him scoring against Chelsea when they meet at Old Trafford later this year.

Of course I wouldn't ever suggest that Rooney doesn't have quality around

him, but if you were to take him out of this United side I truly doubt they'd be in title contention. He is their main goal threat, their main creator, and their work rate. And what makes it all the sweeter for the people who watch him every week is that he is English.

Having an Englishman as the best player in the league is something which has not happened for quite a few years. Names like Ronaldo, Drogba, Henry, Cantona and Ginola have all been loved by the English fans, but going into a World Cup it is certainly nice to see that English players can be just as good as our European, African and South American counterparts.

And what a year this could be for Rooney with England. If he stays fit and playing well, he really could lead England all the way to the trophy in South Africa. There are concerns that he will tire, or that his knees, which are apparently in need of a rest, will give way, but hopefully they are both worst case scenarios. Best case would be that Rooney finishes the season on a high, comes into South Africa hungry for success, scores loads of goals, and lifts the World Cup as the man of the tournament. And at this point in the career of the best English player since Bobby Charlton, I wouldn't be surprised if that happened.

IN OFF THE POST

Got something to say? Drop us a line and get it off your chest. Best letter wins double movie pass to Palace Cinemas.



mailbag@goalweekly.com



Dear Roy,

Even at the age of 74 I still follow the game. I was a referee for 16 years (1970-1986) but I am not all that keen on the A-League.

I was interested in your report in Goal Weekly (Issue 4) about Joe Marston. Coming from Lancashire myself, I can sure remember him at Preston as I come from Morecambe which is, as they say here, just up the road.

But what I was more interested in was the photograph of Joe taking on Ray Charnley who was a good

friend of mine. We played against each other during our school days. Ray played for Greaves School in Lancaster, where he was born in 1935. I played for Balmoral Road School in Morecambe where I was born in 1936. Back then he was tall for his age but skinny but he knew how to head a ball. Later he played for the Red Rose Boys Club, then he was spotted by Preston North End and off he went and was in the junior team for a couple of seasons.

But PNE did not want him so he came back and went to play for Bolton-le-Sands in the North

Lancashire League. He was soon spotted by Morecambe, where he played centre forward, then in 1956 Blackpool was after him, but he turned them down as he wanted to finish his apprenticeship. He was a painter.

In 1957 Blackpool again came knocking. He was signed for £750 (\$1,500). Ray made his senior debut against Luton Town in 1957. In 1959, Birmingham came after him but Blackpool said no! He became one of the best goal scorers on the list of greats at Blackpool. Sadly in November 2009 Ray passed away age 74. All told he

scored 193 goals in 363 games which put him in third spot behind Jimmy Hampson and Stan Mortenson.

Apart from myself there is another old mate of Ray's who also played for Morecambe. He is also now 74 and lives in Ipswich, Queensland.

Best wishes,

Derek Gardner
Hampton Park.

Dear GW,
How the mighty have fallen! Re-

member the days when the mighty Juventus used to run roughshod over all the greatest clubs in Europe? Those days must have felt like a different epoch for Juve fans as they watched their club get dumped out of the Europa League by the mighty Fulham at Craven Cottage. Could this season get any worse for Juve? The demure Old Lady of Italian football is starting to look like that drunken old slapper at the RSL who blows all her money on the pokies and then passes out face-down on the toilet floor.

Forza Milan, Carlton Nth



AUSSIE RULES IN PREVIEW

TOM KNEEBONE STUDIES THE AFL SEASON AHEAD



Richmond Tigers

Premiers: 151 sportsbet
Top 8: 7.00 betfair
Spoon: 3.10 centrebet

2009 key statistic: Scored 100-plus points in 22 games.

Gains: Kids from the draft.

Losses: Joel Bowden, Nathan Brown and Matthew Richardson (all retired)

St Kilda Saints

Premiers: 4.00 sportingbet
Top 8: 1.04 betfair
Spoon: 800 centrebet

2009 key statistic: Essendon was the only team to score more than 100 points against them in a game.

Gains: Brett Peake (Fremantle), Adam Pattison (Richmond), Jesse Smith (North Melbourne)

Losses: Luke Ball (Collingwood), Max Hudghton (retired) and Matt Maguire (Brisbane).

Sydney Swans

Premiers: 61 sportingbet
Top 8: 3.20 sportsbet
Spoon: 21 centrebet

2009 key statistic: Richmond was the only team they beat in nine trips away from NSW or the ACT.

Gains: Josh Kennedy (Hawthorn), Ben McGlynn (Hawthorn), Daniel Bradshaw (Brisbane).

Losses: Leo Barry, Jarred Crouch, Michael O'Loughlin (all retired)

West Coast Eagles

Premiers: 88 betfair
Top 8: 3.70 betfair
Spoon: 15 centrebet

2009 key statistic: Only win outside Perth was a five-point victory over the Bulldogs in round 19.

Gains: Bradd Dalziel (Brisbane) and kids from the draft.

Losses: Chad Fletcher, Adam Hunter, David Wirpanda (retired).

Western Bulldogs

Premiers: 5.50 sportsbet
Top 8: 1.10 betfair
Spoon: 301 centrebet

2009 key statistic: Were the highest scoring team with 2378 points.

Gains: Barry Hall (Sydney) and kids from the draft.

Losses: Wayne Skipper (Hawthorn), Scott Welsh (retired)

Nick Riewoldt will attempt to take his side one step further this year and claim the Premiership.

Melbourne Demons

Premiers: 151 sportsbet
Top 8: 7.00 betfair
Spoon: 3.75 centrebet

2009 key statistic: Haven't won away from the MCG since 2007. Only Victorian team they have beaten in that period is Richmond.

Gains: Joel Macdonald (Brisbane), Tom Scully (number 1 draft pick), Jack Trengove (number 2 draft pick).

Losses: Brock McLean (Carlton), Russell Robertson and Matthew Whelan (retired)

North Melbourne Kangaroos

Premiers: 91 sportsbet
Top 8: 5.50 centrebet
Spoon: 6.00 centrebet

2009 key statistic: Were the lowest scoring team (1680)

Gains: Kids from the draft.

Losses: Josh Gibson (Hawhorn), Adam Simpson (retired), Daniel Harris (Gold Coast).

Port Adelaide Power

Premiers: 67 sportsbet
Top 8: 4.00 betfair
Spoon: 15 centrebet

2009 key statistic: Won five of their first eight, then only won four more for the remainder of the season.

Gains: Jay Nash (Essendon), Cameron Cloke (Carlton), Jay Schulz (Richmond).

Losses: Peter Burgoyne (retired), Shaun Burgoyne (Hawthorn), Brendon Lade (retired).



Barry Hall will definitely aid the Bulldogs' quest for their first Premiership in 54 years

WANT TO BE A WINNER?



Want to be on a winner? Then stick with Goal! Weekly and Tommy Kneebone's Punter's Panel tips.

So far this season, Tommy Kneebone's Multi Bets tips in GW have all been right on the money, and if you had taken a punt it could have netted you some cool handy cash.

The two Multi's so far were for the Kookaburras to take out the hockey World Cup, Germany to beat Korea in the same tournament, and the Socceroos to beat Indonesia in the Asian Cup qualifier – all which came good at \$4.75.

Tommy's next Multi was for Liverpool to beat Portsmouth in the EPL, and for Bordeaux to beat Olympiakos in the UEFA Champions League last sixteen, which also came up trumps to the tune of \$6.75!! A lazy \$100 dollars on each would have pocketed you over \$1000 by now! So there you have it folks, in these tough times, GW and Tommy Kneebone are doing their bit to ease your pain from this Global Economic Crisis.

Just remember to bet responsibly, and make sure to place an order for your copy of Goal! Weekly at your local newsagents, each Monday.



Kalifatidis KO'd for two

By Craig MacKenzie

JAMES Kalifatidis has learned his lesson. Next time the 19-year-old is told to take time to recover from injury he'll heed the advice.

Northcote's teenage striking sensation has been sidelined for a further two weeks after re-injuring his groin during shooting practice at last Thursday night's training session.

He couldn't play in Saturday's John Cain Reserve clash with fellow Greek outfit Bentleigh Greens, which continued a rivalry that reached great heights last season as both clubs chased the State One title eventually won by Northcote.

Injury has interrupted what has been an impressive re-introduction to Victorian Premier League ranks in what Kalifatidis fully expects to be his watershed season, the one in which he cements his place in Victorian football's elite competition.

"Yes, I definitely see myself in Northcote's starting 11," he said.

And with good cause too. He scored the only goal of the Round 4 clash against last year's Grand Final winner Altona Magic and his coach, Peter Tsolakis, has a high opinion of the youngster.

"James is a very, very good signing for us. He's a fantastic young player and we're looking forward to using him up front," said Tsolakis speaking to Goal! Weekly last Xmas.

Little did he know that Kalifatidis would injure his calf against South Melbourne in the pre-season Hellenic Cup then his groin a few weeks ago.

But these temporary setbacks won't hold back this quicksilver youngster with a nose for goal. And a sense of humour.

The son of South Melbourne Hall of Famer, Kris Kalifatidis, says that his dad claims that he was quick during his illustrious playing career. Not having been born when his father was at the height of his playing powers, Kalifatidis the younger can only rely on old videotapes.

Or, he could rely on the view of this old journo. I offered the opinion that while his dad certainly wasn't slow he didn't have the acceleration of his son.

So, James, which side of the family does your speed come from?

"Dad would say from him but I think it must be from my mother (Christine) who was a track and field athlete. Looking at these old tapes, Dad definitely was a lot thinner back then though."

Football is very much a family affair. James has a 21-year-old brother, Nick, who plays with Doncaster Rovers. James describes his older brother as being "always the better one of the two." Nick Kalifatidis is recovering from surgery for osteitis pubis and his younger brother has high hopes of seeing Nick in Premier League ranks before too long.

There are two sisters to round off the family group and one of them, Melissa, has played football.

Kris Kalifatidis drives James to training and matches on a regular basis. He's always been supportive throughout his children's careers and that's unlikely to change.



A chip off the ol' block: barring injuries, James Kalafatidis hopes to follow in his father's, Kris, footsteps.

PHOTO: PETER PSARROS

"He tries to tell me everything about my game. Everything. All the time. Yeah, it's a bit annoying at times but he's been very, very good for me and every decision I've made has been mine. Sure, he'll give me advice but at the end of the day he lets me make my own mind up," said the teenager.

The youngster's career kicked off at the age of six with Doncaster Rovers. He was there for six seasons under a variety of coaches, Dad included.

"A lot of my knowledge about football came from Doncaster Rovers. I learned a lot there and they're a good club." He decided to switch to Bulleen's under-13s then playing in Super League and the highlight of his time with the Italian-backed club was scoring 18 goals in the under-16 side that finished second to Knox City in the 2006 Super League competition.

The short-lived amalgamation with Whittlesea Zebras didn't work out for Kalifatidis. "I was in the resses there but didn't get much of a chance so I went to Richmond."

That was during the 2007 season. He could have joined Heidelberg United but chose the Kevin Bartlett Reserve outfit because his friend, Andrew Viola, now a first team regular, was playing in the reserves but training with the first team squad.

It was a move that was to leave a lasting impression on Kalifatidis.

That season he finally made his senior debut in Premier League, coming off the

bench in the 74th minute in a 2-1 away loss to Oakleigh.

Doug Hodgson was Richmond's senior coach and he had no qualms about giving the youngster his chance.

"I'm really grateful to him for giving me a go. Just training with the first team squad is such an important thing for a young player. You become faster, stronger, you become more aware," said Kalifatidis.

minute of that mismatch.

Hodgson was replaced for the 2008 season by current coach Michael Chatzitritifonas but the competition for a striker's role was fierce with both Pablo and Richie Cardozo adding to the club's firepower.

"I didn't get a chance in the seniors that season because we had a pretty strong forward line. I scored 22 goals in the reserves and I won their leading scorer and



James scores Northcote City's winner last week in the 1-0 defeat of reigning champions, Altona Magic. PHOTO: PETER PSARROS

A couple more subs appearances preceded his first full senior game in an 8-0 Round 26 romp over Sunshine George Cross, Kalifatidis scoring in the 88th

MVP awards."

Actually, Kalifatidis did get a sniff of senior football that year. If you can call it that. He came on as an 87th minute

substitute for Nick Kalambokis in a 3-0 Round 10 win over Coburg United (now Hume City).

"I started off doing the pre-season with Richmond (late 2008) then Chatzi told me it would be better if I dropped down a division then come back.

"I knew the Clifton Hill president, Michael Tyrikos, so I decided to go there." Kalifatidis scored eight goals last season in a side that struggled into ninth place in State League Division One.

He contacted Northcote at the end of the season and joined them for their first Premier League campaign since 1991.

"Pre-season was different to what I'd been used to. We certainly put a lot of kilometres in our legs. Our squad is pretty good. It's reasonably well balanced because there's a pretty good mix of young and older players.

"It's a lot different to Division One, a lot faster. You have to be more aware of when you make your runs and more aware of the defenders around you.

"I think we'll do well. The club wants to make the finals and prove to everyone that we're not just there to be pushovers."

Kalifatidis admits that he doesn't go to Premier League matches other than those Northcote is competing in but from what he's seen so far this season it is rival Oakleigh that has impressed him the most.

"They looked pretty strong to me. What impressed me most about them was the way they controlled the game in the centre of the park.

"The big guy up front, Jerry (Karpeh) looks a very good player. He's strong, he's fast and he can finish."

So how does this young man with the world currently at his feet see his future in the game?

Does he see himself playing in Australian club football's elite competition? Does he harbour ambitions of playing overseas?

"I just want to do the best I can. If I got the chance to play A-league I'd give it my best shot. If I got the chance to play overseas I'd do the same."

And did he ever dream of emulating his father and pulling on a South Melbourne strip?

"Well, yes, I thought of playing there. I reckon it'd be good to play at that stadium (Bob Jane)."

But those thoughts are distant right now. He's got more physio sessions planned and Premier League matches to win for Northcote.

Kris Kalifatidis made one appearance for the Socceroos in a 1978 clash against Greece B. It's refreshing to know, however, that dad's career doesn't hang over this youngster's head like a sword of Damocles. Far from it.

He's forging his own reputation in his own way and there's every reason to believe that the name James Kalifatidis will etch a significant place in the history of the Victorian game. In fact, it's happening right now.



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The Really Unreal Raul

Half Time Heroes: You must be buzzing about going to the World Cup even if it is with your second adopted country for now New Zealand.

Raul Blanco: I have previously tried with the National Team of our country (Australia), we didn't achieve the dream ('93 against Argentina, assistant to Eddie Thomson, '97 Iran as assistant coach to Terry Venables) and when it didn't look like there was going to be another opportunity this invitation came and obviously I'm so thrilled to be part of it.

HTH: Have you been to a World Cup before as a spectator?

RB: No I haven't. I have been to the Olympic Games and everywhere but not to a World Cup either as a spectator or a coach, imagine how thrilled how I am!

HTH: Will getting to the World Cup with New Zealand be the highlight of your coaching career in terms of success?

RB: My role here with the national team of New Zealand is not the role that I had with the national teams of Australia. I was the man in charge; here my role is as an advisor to Ricky Herbert and the team. It's a bit of a difference but nevertheless anybody who loves the game would love to go to a World Cup in any capacity. To be part of this New Zealand team is a great honour and a dream.

HTH: What's been the difference between working with the Australian and New Zealanders?

RB: I don't see any great deal of differences. As you know for the last 42 years New Zealand has been the great opponents of Australia. They are the ones we love to beat and vice versa they love to beat us, it's an incredible rivalry between the two countries. I'm sitting on this side of the fence to compete against them. Suddenly I became part of it. I've been to NZ many, many times, now that I am working with them I found them very, very similar in many different ways. I see many similarities with the way they approach things in everything really. I will be lying if I said I see a big difference between them and us.

HTH: Tell us about the fan reaction when NZ won?

RB: The biggest surprise for me was the reaction of the public. As I said before I've been many times to NZ but never experienced what I experienced this time. Obviously after 28 years wait the possibility of going to World Cup is a big occasion, but nevertheless, I'm used to a bit more control

RB: That is true. That is something you keep in mind, I don't remember a World Cup where Italy starts well. But at the same time, saying that, they are still a world power, they still have phenomenal players; they are team that can go all the way. Today more or less the world is not thinking of Italy as much as before and I must say their football is not what it used to be either, all in all they are too powerful, there is no question in my mind, I agree with you that normally they don't start well and I hope they continue with the same habit.

HTH: The first game that NZ plays at the WC is against Slovakia and it will be crucial? RB: Winning the first game will give you an incredible confidence to continue on in your search to go into the second round and obviously Slovakia is a team that I think you can do the job against them with all the respect we should have and I think it can be done.

RB: With the first game at the WC it's a very, very important one, much more to NZ. The team is growing up, the confidence is obviously getting better and better not only the success with the National team but the Wellington Phoenix doing as well as they did you can see and you can sense that the belief is much better than a year ago. I think this game is a very vital game because if they do win their chances will increase in a big way.

HTH: You must be happy that Wellington Phoenix success in the A League this year? Players like Leo Bertos, Tim Brown and Tony Loch-head have been in good form for Wellington.

RB: We have a lot of players there I think there is five or six altogether; obviously you have to have a lot of admiration for the job that the coach Ricky Herbert has been doing. He is a very intelligent and good coach too in my eyes, he's been in charge of the NT for four or five years, he's been in charge of Wellington since they started in The A- League and the consistency the National Team shows, and the way Wellington is playing I think it speaks very highly, everything is coming into place at exactly the right time and as I said, to have the team going to the WC and Phoenix doing as well as they did, I think it speaks very highly of Ricky obviously because he has been behind everything.

HTH: Will you have divided loyalties when you play Australia at the MCG or will it be Kiwi's all the way?

RB: Look, as you know I am Argentinean born and I was in an elimination (game) for the World Cup against Argentina when Maradona and the rest came to play. I was assistant coach to Eddie Thomson at that time and I had lived in Argentina 25 years, that's like your Mum and I love this country, I mean this is the woman of my life. My mother plays against the woman of my life and now when I think, well I was in a tough situation. But obviously I love the country so much and when you are on the bench and working with people there is no way in the world where you think it's not divided, only for that occasion for 90 mins I will just have to make sure that I won't be. It is human nature, it is impossible to sit on that bench with friends, people I have been working with, players that I worked with and think that anything else can go through my mind. I think when you sit with one colour that's the colour you defend and you have to accept that's professional football. Hiddink and some other coaches move around the world and coach other teams and that's how

HTH: In the Europa league Cannavaro had a shocker gave away a penalty and got sent off as Juventus got knocked out by Mark Schwarzer's Fulham. Italy always starts slow, that could be to your advantage.



Raul with All Whites coach, Rrrrrrrricki Herbert. PHOTO COURTESY NZ FOOTBALL.



Raul Blanco, Andrew Lederer and Les Scheinflug.



Raul and El Tel during the Australia's World Cup assault in '93'.

it is, and you just do the best you can for the people you are working with. It is an obvious answer really.

HTH: So do you know any words to the NZ National anthem?

RB: No. When things like this happen



King of the kids.

The Fact File:

Raul Blanco (born 4 December 1941 in Buenos Aires) is an Argentine-born Australia Association football coach. He is well known for coaching the Socceroos from March 1998 to June 1999. He was also coaching the Olyroos (Under-23 side) at the same time, and coached them during the 2000 Summer Olympics. Blanco was also employed by New Zealand Football as a technical assistant in their successful campaign to qualify for the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

Blanco played for Argentine football club Arsenal de Sarandí between 1962 and 1966, he then emigrated to Australia where he played for Prague F.C. between 1968 and 1971 and Pan-Hellenic between 1972 and 1973.

Wikipedia

Coaching the Socceroos

HTH: You were assistant coach to Terry Venables against Iran back in '97 when Australia ended up drawing after leading 2-0 and Iran ended up going to France '98. Les Murray has said, "coaches of lesser international standard like Frank Arok or Edie Thomson would not have lost that tie with such a lead". Do you agree with him?

RB: No, no I don't. Of course not.

HTH: Can you tell me why?

RB: I can tell you a thousand games by great teams or better teams where results have been reversed. I have to respect Les's opinion, but that is not the one I have. Those things can happen, it did happen and it happens to great teams in the world.

HTH: You spent many years coaching in Australia's youth teams Olympic Teams and National Teams, you must feel some pride in the achievement of the current Socceroos?

RB: Yes of course, the last WC there were nearly 20 players from the final squad that I was associated with. In the beginning of their careers, they continued on some of them from under 17, under 20's into the Olympic and senior teams. At that time when we started with all of them, they were young kids chasing their dreams, good footballers but yet to develop as great footballers, and to see how far they went in their careers and see the success they have in Europe and with the national team it gives you an incredible feeling because obviously we have been together for many, many years and to see them succeed in what they love to do it is a proud moment in many different ways.

HTH: Can you give me an insight into why this group of players have achieved so much, and what did you see in these players when you first coached them?

RB: The first thing they had was the skills and the technique and everything which was needed to go further and they had an incredible willingness to make it happen. And when you have technique and are prepared to listen to advice, and when you have the willingness that they had to go further in the game I think that is what the secret is really. And it is no secret, it's just that you have to have ingredients, the desire and that incredible commitment to be the person you want to become and they did. Obviously it's full credit to them because some of them left home and moved quite early away from home to be in an environment which was new to them and they had to prove a point and they all did. I'm proud and the country should be very proud, it looks easy now when you look at what they already achieved.

HTH: How do you think this Socceroos side will go at the World Cup? Your honest assessment of our chances.

RB: I think they can do easily as well, I think it's bit of a tougher group, we said this before some of the players are no longer with the national team. I don't know if we have the same qualities. I mean a Mark Viduka obviously or a Kevin Muscat, Paul Okon Ned Zelic and all those, which are not easy to replace, I mean they were exceptionally talented players. I think the qualities of the team are there, I think Australia is a very difficult team to lose games because they are set in a way where they don't give you too much. And I think obviously the first game against Germany will again be crucial to our chances. And do I think they can do it to the second round? Yes, I think they can.

The State of Coaching in Australia

HTH: A lot of talk around Australian football is that we are not producing the players of the ilk of your Vidukas, Emertons, Cahills and Kewells. Has the environment that these players came through changed so much in the last decade or more, that these types of players are not being produced anymore?

RB: If you look at what happened with Viduka, Kewell, Grella, Brescia no Moore, Lazaridis, Aloisi whoever, Ned Zelic, Paul Okon, Bosnich, Kalac, Schwarzer and so on and on, if you look at what they did have at that time and what they have today I think it's changed in quite a big way; the possibilities.

At that time we had the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra which was maybe the only place at that time where special players could go into. People

keep on analysing what the reasons are but nobody seems to come up with an answer. I'm thinking at that time a lot of players came through and they become who they are and they were very good players with less possibilities, regarding training facilities and so and on. They did it a very tough way. Today we are living in a much better world. There are academies everywhere, but something is wrong, we are not teaching the players the right way.

If you look to now, we are going to lose some of the players that are going to compete at this World Cup, some of them because of their age obviously and we have to start to bring some new players into it. Truthfully I don't see right now that we have the quality of the players to replace the players that are going to stop playing. I think we already suffered after the last World Cup. All in all the development is not what it used to be. Somebody somewhere failed to do the job properly because I don't think the technique that we are supposed to have is not near what it used to be.

HTH: Surely the different coaches across the states that were influential in teaching your Vidukas, Grellas, Kewells and Emertons have not all disappeared?

RB: It's quite a long time ago. A lot of people who were working at that time that are not working any longer; for whatever reasons. I think it's wrong for you to say it's the same people in the same places. The guy who taught Mark Viduka at the Melbourne Knights when he was 13,14 15 do you know where he is? Do you know where he is coaching? You don't do you?

HTH: I wouldn't have a clue.

RB: Do you know who coached Grella and Bresciano at Bulleen under 13, 14, 15's? You don't do you?

HTH: No I don't, but that is why I'm asking you.

RB: That is not the assumption. The answer is we produced a lot of good, good players, very good players that went around the world and become who they are today. Today we are not doing this the same way, the quality is not what it's supposed to be and the questions have to be asked. I've been involved in youth but I think something is not well, we have to re-think carefully and come up with a solution, and I think the quality is not what it is supposed to be.

HTH: Well going on from that, don't you think the coaches that coached the players you mentioned before should have been coaching the next group of players that were coming through?

RB: I keep saying to you I don't know if the coaches that were coaching the players are still around in the same place I don't know if they have same facilities. The coaching is changing, I think coaches in the past were more concerned about keeping the players technique, making sure they knew how to play the game properly. Today sometimes we become too sophisticated for our own good and we talk about a lot of things which people cannot do. It's easy to talk about a lot of things and this is what you should do and so and, we are forgetting that without technique there are no players and I think if we don't really believe that technique is the answer to the rest of the things which will cover the life of a footballer then we are on the wrong track. I don't think the technique is as good as what it could be. Something is wrong somewhere. I can't say to you that's what is wrong. I just think it's not

coming, it's not happening, we have not been successful in youth level we have not been successful in many different ways. The people who are running the game, they are the ones you should question and ask them why? They are the ones who have to give us the answer. I'm like you are, I'm in the same place you are. I think we should be asking questions like: "What happened?".

The people that are running the game it seems that they are not answerable to anything, but they have to because it is a substantial difference to what it was and what it is (now).

HTH: People who have followed the game in Australia for a while can see and spot the difference in quality compared to the players coming through and the older players. Your thoughts?

RB: The game has changed around the world too, so be careful. It's not what it used to be either. The years you are talking about (were where) good football, intelligent football, good technique was a great priority. Today we keep thinking if you jump higher and if you run 100 metres in 11 or 12 seconds and other things which are not really related to good football are becoming priorities. Other people outside the game are becoming influential, telling people how training should be done, and we are forgetting at that time one or two guys were doing everything.

Today we have eight or nine people, all influential, all shouting something needs to be done this way or that way. People who have not been in the game, people who don't know the game are talking about things which maybe I think their priorities are wrong. I work for a club and I'm a technical director so I see things. The reason I think we are not improving with the youth is I think we are not teaching the kids the right way. First of all the skill is the only answer to it.

When you bring somebody who wants to play the game and he comes with the skills then you can prepare him for bigger and better things. I know people who are doing best exercises for fitness or things that which are not connected to the game with young players You let one year go by and two years and three years and then you dismiss two or three years of your development which are vital to increase and to improve the technique and the skills that are required to become a good soccer player and then it becomes tougher and tougher.

The coaching today is restrictive in a sense, especially with the young players, because everyone thinks it's about winning and winning is the answer, only for your own satisfaction. Because the guy coaching under 14/15s walks through the ground thinking well I'm a champion; well really you are not. You are there to prepare players to make sure they learn to play the game in a better way so the technique is better, skills are better, the understanding of the game is better and so and on. When you start to get results-oriented, you miss what education is. I'm thinking well if you get the young kids very early and let me tell you that I think there is talent in this country to develop players just as good as there was before too. There is no lack of talent. I think it's wrong teaching, that's what it is.

HTH: Thanks very much Raul for speaking to Goal! Weekly and Half Time Heroes.

RB: All the best. It was my pleasure.

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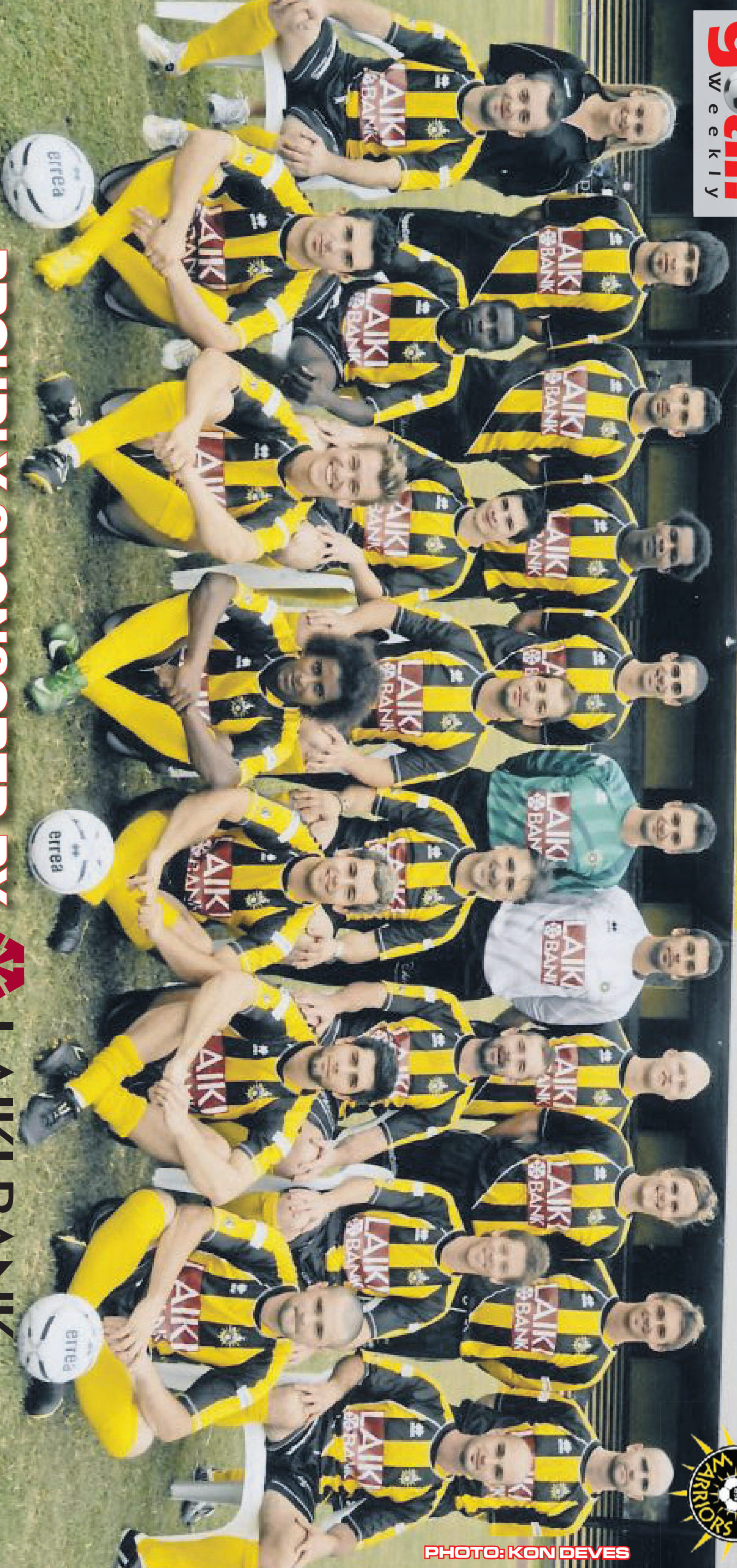


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Back Row: Lara Mamolitti (Club Doctor), Reza Hossaini, Hamid Basma, Junior Melo, Mark Vazzocchi, Steve Tilovski, Cristian Morales, Kurt Crnic, Luke Byles, Phil Warner, Craig Elvin.

Middle Row: Saso Alexovski, Osagie Ederaro, Yanni Galanos, Mark Tsiortas, George Katsakis, Josip Kozic, Steve Martin, Paul Miller.

Front Row: Rinor Mariqi, Les Dounbalis, Yarred Haillenkelot, Rudy Saglam, John Lazaridis, Hrvoje Matkovic.

Blacktown and Marconi still neck-and-neck

By Mike Salter

The Marconi Stallions maintained top spot in the NSW Premier League on Saturday by defeating the in-form Sutherland Sharks 1-0 at Seymour Shaw, with an early Matthew Gordon goal. Nevertheless, they have to be content to share first place once again with the Blacktown City Demons, who saw off the West Sydney Berries at Lily Homes Stadium with a late goal.

In Saturday's other encounter, eternal Elizabeth Drive rivals Bonnyrigg and Sydney United contested a pulsating match which ended in a 2-1 win for Brian Brown's Bonnyrigg side. Details of this one can be found below.

Sunday's action featured a major surprise, with the South Coast Wolves upsetting perennial contenders Bankstown City 3-2 at the latter's Jensen Park stronghold. The young Illawarra side has been improving with every outing, and can be proud of their first win. Another struggling side, the Sydney Tigers, looked to be heading to a home victory over competition newcomers Rockdale City, but a goal for the visitors ten minutes from time was enough to secure a 2-2 draw and a point for the Macedonian-backed club.

An early goal for Manly United at Cromer Park was cancelled out by an equaliser for Sydney Olympic shortly before half-time, but a goal deep into injury time sent Olympic further into the slough of despond, while giving the hosts a second win of the season.

Sydney United 1-2 Bonnyrigg White Eagles
Last season's premiers Sydney United faced their toughest test of the season so far, hosting competition favourites the Bonnyrigg White Eagles. And despite a strong second half from the home side, Brian Brown's men took the three points thanks to their two first-half goals. The match was played behind closed doors, with the unsavoury events of 2005 still resonating.

United began well. Former Newcastle Jets youngster Mirtan Pavlovic put in a cross for defender Damon Collina on five minutes, but the chance was spurned. Two minutes later, following a surging run from Jamie McMaster, Daniel Sev-



NSW action between Sydney United and Bonnyrigg White eagles. PHOTO: CARLOS FURTADO

erino had the chance to score from one of his feared free kicks, but this time his attempt flew just wide.

Bonnyrigg's star recruit Brad Boardman had been making his physical presence felt already, and on ten minutes he put the away side into the lead. A corner from Severino evaded the entire United defence, and Boardman was left with a straightforward finish at the far post.

United missed a golden chance to equalise on 17 minutes when Pavlovic, influential in patches, nipped past his man and squared the ball to Steve Hayes. The former Wollongong midfielder looked certain to score, but instead lifted the ball over the bar. A critical moment.

Shortly afterwards came Bonnyrigg's, and Boardman's, second. Latching onto another well-flighted free kick from Severino, he leapt highest in the box and glanced a header neatly past Vedran Janjetovic in the United goal. It might have

been three only four minutes later, when Boardman turned Joe Vrkic cleverly and let fly from the edge of the area; this time, Janjetovic was on his mettle.

The away side retained the initiative for the remainder of the half, with Milorad Simonovic almost exploiting a half-chance that came his way through the efforts of Shane Webb.

The hosts' task became even more difficult shortly after the restart, with Vrkic receiving his second yellow card for a clumsy foul on McMaster. Nevertheless, United came back into the contest on 52 minutes, Luka Glavas being tripped by Wade Oostendorp in the area before slotting home the resultant penalty himself. 2-1.

On 54 minutes it should have been 2-2, when Glavas's burst of pace ended with a crisp square ball to Elsid Barkhousir. The United striker, however, failed to beat the advancing Ali Akbal. Barkhousir had

another good chance soon after the hour when a cross from Pavlovic reached him in the box; getting sufficient power on the header, Barkhousir nevertheless only saw the ball rebound off a flailing Akbal.

The visitors gradually pulled themselves together and had the best of the closing minutes, with substitute Juan Carlos Chavez to the fore. He released Jamie McMaster for a shot on 73 minutes, and soon afterwards another move involving Chavez ended with McMaster crossing to Severino, who should have done better with his eventual shot.

After two more half-chances for Severino, United's misery was completed with the dismissal of their goalscorer Glavas, guilty of a horrendous foul on Vuko Tomasevic. Now facing nine men, Bonnyrigg coasted to the final whistle and gained a vital three points.

NSW LADDER

	P	W	L	Pts
Blacktown City FC	5	4	0	13
Marconi Stallions	5	4	0	13
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	5	3	0	11
Sydney United	5	2	1	8
Manly United FC	5	2	1	8
Rockdale City Suns	5	1	1	6
Bankstown City	5	1	2	5
Sutherland Sharks	5	1	3	4
South Coast Wolves	5	1	3	4
Sydney Olympic	5	1	3	4
West Sydney Berries	5	1	3	4
APIA Leichhardt Tigers	5	0	4	1

NSW RESULTS

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE: ROUND 5: FIRST GRADE: Sutherland Sharks 0 Marconi Stallions 1 (Matthew Gordon 18m), Sydney United 1 (Luka Glavas 53m pen) Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2 (Bradley Boardman 10/23m). **APIA Leichhardt Tigers 2** (Robert Younis 59m Michael West 64m) Rockdale City 2 (Askin Oygur 53m Adem Kir 79m), Manly United 2 (Craig Midgley 33m Robert Cattach 90m) Sydney Olympic 1 (Chris Triantis 41m), Bankstown City Lions 2 (Richard Luksic 35m Almir Dizdagic 92m) South Coast Wolves 3 (Mark Picciolini 47/60m Andre Gomez 84m), Blacktown City FC 1 (Tolgay Ozbek 78m) West Sydney Berries 0.

GRADE 20: Sutherland Sharks 2 Marconi Stallions 1, Sydney United 2 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1.

GRADE 18: Sutherland Sharks 3 Marconi Stallions 0, Sydney United 2 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2.

NSW SUPER LEAGUE: ROUND 2: FIRST GRADE: Fraser Park 1 (A Juric 33m) Macarthur Rams 2 (A De La Cuadra 36m pen C Gomez 38m), Central Coast Lightning 1 (E Akamarmoi 86m) Granville Rage 3 (N Bobo 45/58m K Holbrook 69m). **GRADE 20:** Fraser Park 1 Macarthur Rams 2, Central Coast Lightning 0 Granville Rage 1.

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE: ROUND 2: FIRST GRADE: Balmain SC 5 (C Modena 15m Own goal 41m T Sowden 55m G Buonavoglia 75m N Paradisis 77m) Gladesville Ryde Magic 1 (S Benegadi 78m), Stanmore Hawks 4 (S Bromley 24m W Hijazi 31/86m J Fearn 46m) Blacktown Spartans 4 (M Hubbard 34m G McPherson 57m M Todd 81m T Macrae 84m). **GRADE 20:** Balmain SC 0 Gladesville Ryde Magic 4, Stanmore Hawks 1 Blacktown Spartans 1.

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO: ROUND 2: FIRST GRADE: Hawkesbury City SC 3 (K George 10/35/90m) Fairfield Wanderers 3 (A Durrette 22m M Sanchez 24m K Teti 80m), Bathurst '75 1 (J Portegies 70m) Gazy Lansvale 4 (J Berkho 23m E Yokhanna 32/46m M Amed 76m), Springwood 2 (P Henderson 60m M Haberman 64m) Belmore Hercules 0. **GRADE 20:** Hawkesbury City SC 2 Fairfield Wanderers 3, Bathurst '75 0 Gazy Lansvale 1, Springwood 0 Belmore Hercules 1.

NEXT WEEK

Round 6
6pm Sat 3/Apr West Syd Berries v Manly Utd
Sydney Olympic Athletic Centre
6.30pm Sat 3/Apr Sth Coast Wolves v Blacktown City
Win Stadium
7pm Sat 3/Apr B'rigg White Eagles v Bankstown City
Bonnyrigg Sports Club
7.30pm Sat 3/Apr Marconi Stallions v Syd Utd
Marconi Stadium
7pm Sun 4/Apr S'land Sharks v APIA L'hardt Tigers
Seymour Shaw Park
6pm Mon 5/Apr Syd Olympic v Rockdale City Suns
Belmore Sports Ground

Brosque Crowned SFC's B&F Griffiths flies south for season six

Striker Alex Brosque has capped off the perfect year after he was named Sydney FC's Hyundai A-League Player of the Year at the club's annual awards night.

Voted on by his teammates, it is now the third straight season Brosque has been named Sydney FC Player of the Year following another stunning year leading the Sky Blues front line.

Brosque explosive pace, vision and deft touch ripped many an opponent's defensive structure to shreds in 2009/10 – a year he played 29 A-League games, netted seven goals and added 11 assists.

Brosque and fellow strikers Mark Bridge and John Aloisi teamed up to form a potent attacking combination in a side that scored 42 goals this season – the third highest in the A-League.

As well as being selected in the Qan-

tas Socceroos squad this year, Brosque rounded out a magical season with the birth of his first child – daughter Christina.

In other awards, John Aloisi's stunning long range goal against Melbourne Victory at the Sydney Football Stadium on Sunday 14 February has been voted Sydney FC's Goal of the Year.

20-year-old Servet Uzunlar was named Sydney FC's W-League Player of the Year, rounding out a brilliant season for the midfielder that included winning the Premiership and Championship double and earning national team selection.

And goal scoring midfielder Iain Ramsay was named Sydney FC's National Youth League Player of the Year following an outstanding season that saw him make his Hyundai A-League debut.



Brosque caps off a bumper year with a hat trick of SFC B&F awards. PHOTO: GEOFF JONES

Griffiths flies south for season six

The Central Coast Mariners playing squad for the Hyundai A-League 2010/11 season is continuing to take shape, following the signing of former North Queensland Fury midfielder Rostyn Griffiths on a two year deal, taking him through until the end of the Hyundai A-League 2011/12 season.

Griffiths, born in England's industrial north but raised in Western Australia, began his professional career by signing with English Premier League giant Blackburn in 2006, before stints with then Scottish Premier League side Greta, as well as Accrington Stanley and Adelaide United, before ultimately linking with the Fury.

Ironically, Griffiths has appeared in Mariners colours previously, trialling

during a pre-season tour to Queensland last July.

"Rostyn is a really good signing for us. I was impressed with him at North Queensland Fury, especially as a central defender. He can also play defensive midfield but every time he has played central defence they have kept a clean sheet.

"He's a natural defensive midfielder so he's very good on the ball but his positioning we will work on him tactically, but I think Mariners supporters will see a lot from him," said Mariners Head Coach Graham Arnold.

The 22-year-old says he liked what he saw from his brief stint with the Yellow and Navy, and is keen to rekindle the association.

South Hobart go to the top in Tasmania

By Walter Pless

Reigning champions South Hobart went to the top of the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League ladder when they beat Glenorchy Knights 3-0 at KGV Park on Friday night.

The highlight of the game was a goal by Kostas Kanakaris in the 74th minute to make it 2-0.

The goal, which was shown on television on Saturday night, was a brilliant overhead scissors kick.

Kanakaris controlled a cross from the right by David Abbott, flicked the ball up in the air and sent the ball rocketing into the top left-hand corner with an acrobatic overhead kick from 15 metres.

It will go close to being the goal of the season and even Kanakaris's marker, the Knights' Anthony Grundy, congratulated him on the effort.

Kanakaris had given South the lead on the hour with another brilliant goal. He gained possession inside the box and dropped his shoulders, first one way and then the other, to beat three defenders and slot the ball home past keeper Alex Tatnell.

The first half had been goalless, but these two goals paved the way for South's win, the third goal coming in the 77th minute when Jonathon Lo side-footed home a cross from the right by Jim Pennicott.

South, who had beaten Knights 4-0 in the Summer Cup final, produced some excellent football, while Knights relied on the long ball, which was often mis-directed.

"Second half, I thought we were quite magnificent in attack, but in the first half, it was a slog and with Eamonn back they obviously had a little bit different shape, different system and people who were doing good jobs for them," said South Hobart coach, Ken Morton.

"It was tough in the first half to get behind them, but in the second half, after the first goal from Kostas, things started to open up for us and we were able to get in behind them on the flanks and we got some good crosses in and maybe should have had another two or three goals and really finished them off."

New Town Eagles and Olympia Warriors met in a bottom-of-the-table clash at South Hobart on Saturday and drew 2-2, although Eagles should have won on the chances.

Adam McKeown, who netted both goals for Eagles, missed at least four more good chances, while Shane Kent hit the bar and also missed two good opportunities.

The save of the match came in the 49th minute when a powerful shot from 20 metres by Olympia's Emmanuel Tsakiris was plucked out of the top corner by Eagles keeper Nathan Pitchford.



Olympia's Adam Hedge controls the ball as team-mate Jayden Hey (right) arrives and Eagles' Alex Leszczynski (left) watches. PHOTO: WALTER PLESS

McKeown gave Eagles a 14th-minute lead, but Brady Cronk equalised on his debut for Olympia two minutes later.

McKeown restored Eagles' lead in the 26th minute, but Olympia's central defender Adam Hedge equalised in the 51st minute when he headed home a Ben Phillips corner.

Both teams were satisfied with a point, which at least gets them off the mark after each suffered two straight losses.

Newly promoted Taroona drew 2-2 at home with Clarence United at Kelvedon Park.

In the Forestry Tasmania Northern Premier League, Burnie United thrashed Launceston United 13-0. It's going to be a long, long season for Launceston United, last year's wooden-spooners.

Champions Northern Rangers trounced Prospect Knights 7-1, while Riverside Olympic downed Launceston City 1-0.

Ulverstone came away from Cardigan Street with a 2-1 win over Somerset.

Olympia's Jayden Hey (left) tangles with Eagles' Adam McKeown



SOUTH LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Hobart	3	2	1	0	5	1	7
Glenorchy Knights	3	2	0	1	9	7	6
Tilford Zebras	3	1	2	0	5	4	5
Taroona	3	1	1	1	7	6	4
Clarence United	3	1	1	1	6	7	4
Kingborough Lions	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
New Town Eagles	3	0	1	2	7	9	1
Hobart Olympia	3	0	1	2	3	8	1

SOUTH RESULTS

Glenorchy Knights 0 lost to South Hobart 3
Hobart Olympia 2 drew with New Town Eagles 2
Taroona 2 drew with Clarence United 2
Tilford Zebras 1 drew with Kingborough Lions 1

NEXT WEEK

Round 4

Friday 2nd April
Tilford Zebras v Clarence United
KGV Park 8pm

Saturday 3rd April

New Town Eagles v Taroona
Clare Street 2.30pm
South Hobart v Hobart Olympia
South Hobart 2.30pm
Kingborough Lions v Glenorchy Knights
Lightwood Park 2.30pm

Monday 5th April

Statewide Lakoseljic Cup
Qual. Round 2

NORTH LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Burnie United	1	1	0	0	13	0	3
Northern Rangers	1	1	0	0	7	1	3
Ulverstone	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Riverside Olympic	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Devonport City	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Launceston City	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Somerset	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Prospect Knights	1	0	0	1	1	7	0
Launceston United	1	0	0	1	0	13	0

NORTH RESULTS

Burnie United 13 defeated Launceston United 0
Prospect Knights 1 lost to Northern Rangers 7
Somerset 1 lost to Ulverstone 2
Riverside Olympic 1 defeated Launceston City 0
Devonport - Bye

NEXT WEEK

Round 2

Saturday 3rd April
Launceston City v Burnie United
Mitsubishi Park 2.30pm
Launceston Utd v Riverside Olympic
Birch Avenue 2.30pm
Somerset v Prospect Knights
Cardigan Street 2.30pm
Devonport City v Ulverstone
Valley Road 2.30pm
Northern Rangers - Bye

Monday 5th April

Statewide Lakoseljic Cup
Qual. Round 2

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Brisbane Strikers open title defence

By Jarrod Ellis

After a long off season the Hyundai 2010 QSL finally kicked off on Saturday night. Reigning league champions Brisbane Strikers hosted Capricorn Cougars, whilst minnows Bundaberg Spirit took on NQ Razorbacks at Martens Oval.

At Perry Park the Strikers got the defence of their league title off to a perfect start with a scrappy 1-0 win over the Cougars. The two sides had met during pre-season with the result an entertaining 3-3 draw but defence was the focus this time around as both sides succeeded in stifling the other for much of the match.

The game began at a frenetic pace with hard challenges coming in on anyone who dwelt too long on the ball. Strikers' goalkeeper Brendan White was the first man between the posts to be called into action as he was forced to dive low to his left to deny Cougars winger Fergus McIntosh in the 11th minute.

White was again forced into action five minutes later to deal with a stinging shot from Cougars skipper Tristan Fraser, who had received a pass in the centre of the field just outside the Strikers' penalty area before turning and dropping his shoulder to gain a half-metre on stopper Jason Shade. Fraser let fly with his left foot but White did well to tip the ball wide as it looked destined for the top corner of the net.

Capricorn's play continued to provide the better chances as they attempted to pass their way through the middle, whilst the Strikers' wide men struggled to get much out of a determined visiting defence.

It wasn't until twenty-two minutes in that Cougar's keeper Tim English would be called into action. Brisbane forward Matt Thurtell found himself through on goal as he met the cross of left-back Brad McDonald, but English was well aware of the danger and saved at the striker's feet to prevent the goal scoring opportunity.

McDonald and Thurtell would combine again only twelve minutes later to give Brisbane the lead and ultimately the match. McDonald played the ball in from wide on the left to Gareth Musson who evaded a defender before playing a short pass into the Capricorn penalty area for a sprinting Thurtell. Thurtell then displayed excellent composure, riding a defender's tackle before placing a low shot past an advancing English.

From there til the half Brisbane dominated, placing the Cougars under siege in their own area. Cougar's captain Fraser even found himself defending in the penalty area as the visitors looked to hang on until the break.

The second half began much the same as where it left of as the Strikers quickly put together a couple of chances, only to be denied by the excellent English and a



Opening day action from the QSL between Brisbane Strikers (yellow) and Capricorn Cougars.
PHOTOS: COURTESY FOOTBALL FEDERATION QUEENSLAND

desperate defence.

The Cougars began to display a much more physical side to their game as the half wore on, bundling players off the ball and giving away a constant stream of free kicks. The home side bought into the visitor's style of play and the vast majority of the half devolved into a dour, nigglesome tussle in midfield.

The nearest the Cougars came to an equaliser came in the eightieth minute when Brisbane right-back Jordan Farina lost possession upfield under a heavy tackle, leaving him out of position. The ball was passed to McMullen, who made the most of the space left vacant by Farina to sprint forward. Covering defence from the home side held McMullen at

bay, but he was able to look inside and square a pass to Fraser, who hit the ball first-time with his right foot from thirty yards to drive in a powerful shot that had White watching gratefully as it passed a few centimetres over his crossbar.

In Bundaberg, the Spirit kicked off their campaign with a 0-0 draw against visitors NQ Razorbacks at Martens Oval. The Spirit have seen several changes to their squad since last season when they failed to win a game and there were some encouraging signs for the Wide Bay team.

The Spirit looked to play on the counter, allowing the Razorbacks to dictate much of the play but a resolute home defence stood firm. Despite being held in their own half for long periods of the

match by the Razorbacks it was Bundaberg who would put the ball into the net, only to have their celebrations halted by an offside flag.

Elsewhere, the Whitsunday Miners were scheduled to host the QAS but the match had to be postponed due to cyclone activity. The move continues a theme of poor weather that has dogged the Miners for their entire preseason, reportedly having to cancel 50% of their training sessions to date because of poor weather.

Sunday's game sees Sunshine Coast play the FNQ Bulls at Stockland Park, where the Fire will be looking to keep pace with their rivals, Brisbane Strikers. The travelling Bulls will be hoping to get a result as they chase a debut finals ap-

LADDER										
	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	Pts		
1 Brisbane Strikers	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	3		
2 Sunshine Coast	1	1	0	0	3	1	2	3		
3 Bundaberg Spirit	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1		
4 NQ McD Razorbacks	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1		
5 Qld Academy Sport	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
6 Whitsunday Miners	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
7 Capricorn Cougars	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0		
8 FNQ Bulls	1	0	0	1	1	3	-2	0		

Results
Round 1
Brisbane Strikers 1 (Thurtell) v Capricorn Cougars 0 (Half-time 1-0)
Bundaberg Spirit 0 v NQ Razorbacks 0 (Half-time 0-0)
Sunshine Coast Fire 3 (Holmes, Drazendall, O/G) v FNQ Bulls 1 (Ruiz) (Half-time 0-0)
Whitsunday Miners v QAS - Match postponed

Next Week
Round 2
Capricorn Cougars v Whitsunday Miners
<i>Fri 2 April 5:00pm</i>
NQ Razorbacks v Brisbane Strikers
<i>Sat 3 April 7:30pm</i>
FNQ Bulls v Bundaberg Spirit
<i>Sat 3 April 8:00pm</i>
QAS v Sunshine Coast FC
<i>Sun 4 April 4:00pm</i>

pearance in only their second season in the QSL.

The Mareeba side suffered a blow when they lost influential midfielder Glenn Hurney for the season last month and Coach Peter Tokesi is still undecided on who will attempt to fill the void left by arguably the club's best player.

"Glen's not the sort of player you can replace," he said. "I think he was close to the best player in the league last season.

"We might try Joe Rusch there. He's probably more of an attacking player, but he can probably do the job."



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Cobras sting with deadly bite on Raiders

By Nat Adamopoulos

Round 2 of the FFSA Men's Super League brought some interesting results with some of the so-called minnows tasting success.

At the Croatian Sports Centre newly promoted **Adelaide Cobras** stunned the homeside **Raiders** in a 2-1 victory, new signing Paul Marino scoring the winner with ten minutes to go. In a great display of what team football is all about, the Cobras persisted to give Coach Maurice Natale his first 3 points in the Super league.

"It was pleasing to get a first up win and just reward for the tireless efforts of the club over the last few years but it is only one win and early in the season. All the boys contributed well but we still strive to improve," said Natale.

The Cobras were strengthened with key signing defender Ang Constanzo (Newcastle Jets) taking to the park for his debut match, but Raiders defence depleted missing Charles Marwe and Dalibor Barisic still to come back into the side. Raiders began the match steady, but playing a long ball game earlier that wasn't fruitful. Captain Richie Alagich was unlucky not to break the ice in the 13th minute with a cracking shot that totally beat Cobras keeper Nick Crossley, hitting the cross bar. In the 21st minute Cobras had a half chance from a Jimmy Okello shot that forced Raiders keeper Jason Delfos to make a diving save, injuring his small finger on his right hand in the process.

On the half hour success for Raiders, when a ball brilliantly stolen by midfielder Kingsley Francis was passed off to young Craig Goodwin down the left flank, the youngster drilling the ball past four Cobras defenders with pinpoint accuracy to Alagich's feet for a tap in to goal. Despite being a goal down, Cobras kept their heads playing a first to the ball determined style of football, with their duel strike force of Marino and Okello continually looking menacing. Raiders had chances in the 38th and 41st minute where both Sean Brennan and Mimi Saric had opportunities to put their side further in front. In saying that, the homeside did however have some rather hap-hazard attempts on the ball, at times their approach looking somewhat lackadaisical. Matthew Muscroft had a chance to become hero right on the half time whistle, his shot on goal thwarted to keep the scoreline at 1-0.

Raiders coach John Duthie was forced to make a change during the break, Delfos succumbing to his finger injury and Cody Larkin (Adelaide United Youth Team) coming on in his place. Five minutes in, Alagich came close to making it a brace, taking a shot from the left that ran across the face of goal. Michael Cavallaro who was brought on for Saric had two significant opportunities to score, scuffing a shot in the 63rd and unable to capitalize on a great ball in from Todd McSorley in the 77th. Cobras were looking close to equalizing, Oliver Totani popping in a shot but Larkin successfully smothering it. Their tenacity was rewarded in the 70th minute when Larkin deflected an incoming ball that created some congestion in the box. A second shot was deflected by the Raiders defence but handed it onto a platter for Okello to toe-poke in, his shot finding



Galaxy keeper Ryan Veitch clears away a shot by Knights. PHOTO: ADAM BUTLER

the foot of young Raider Michael Acton, who was left watching the ball hit the post and dribble ever so slowly over the line for the equalizer. With ten minutes to go, a clever bit of play in midfield by Cobras resulted in the match winner. A flick on to Marino out wide on the left of the park spotted Larkin off his line, firing in the ball with his second touch and beating the keeper comprehensively. Cobras were called upon shortly after, when Muscroft had yet another chance, the keeper Crossley saving the close range shot easily.

A very despondent John Duthie said he was disappointed with the result. "Once again we should've had the game won at half time with the amount of chances we created. We went chasing the game after they equalized and unfortunately conceded a second. We are playing some great football, creating a lot of chances – we just need to start taking them and get our season back on track."

Adelaide Blue Eagles suffered their second loss in as many games when they went down to **Western Strikers** 2-4 at the Marden Sports Complex in what was a stand up and be counted brand of football for the visitors. Although it's still early in the season, The Strikers finally put together a complete display which is sure to put the rest of the top sides on notice. The win a huge confidence booster for the club, proved they can challenge one of the big established clubs and come out on top. The Strikers lead throughout the match, Steven Stefanopoulos coming back into the frey

breaking the deadlock early in the opening stanza. UK imports Chris Middleton and Callum Flanagan (who has scored in almost every outing for his new club) added to the goal tally, with Milos Radocaj scoring a lovely goal singlehandedly beating Eagles keeper Lucas Andreucci. The win has instilled a great vibe into the club, as they look forward to hosting MetroStars in Round 3 in a fortnight's time. Goals for the Adelaide Blue Eagles were care of Chad Bugeja and young gun Kym Harris, recently returning from a successful tour of Japan playing in the Global Arena Cup Final part of the SANIX cup.

Other results from matches played saw **Cumberland United** going down 2-1 to **Adelaide City** at their home ground Bailey Reserve. From all accounts the game was a great display of top quality football being played by both sides, the Foxes keeping the game scoreless for the first half. It was the Foxes Shaun Smith that scored the first goal of the match against the run of play to take the homeside to the lead. With about 20 mins to go in the match, Coach Charlie Villani made a change bringing on the zippy Fred Agius who went about evading the Foxes defence time after time, stamping his mark on the match. Adelaide City turned it on showing their dominance with goals scored care of a brace for midfielder Nicholas Orr.

The night game at Con Makris Park between **Adelaide Galaxy** and **Para Hills Knights** resulted in a stalemate 1-1 draw in what was an end to end

game and a fair result for the match. Both sides approached the game with a tough and physical style of football as expected and were equally able to absorb each other's pressure. Galaxy drew first blood in the 26th minute through a Jake Markham worm-burner that bounced awkwardly in front of clambering Knights keeper Ben Moore and dribbled over the line. A scare for the Knights 2 minutes later when tough defender David Bounds and Moore clashed knee to chest as they went up for a ball, Bounds coming off the worst of the two. With some attention from the trainer, both were fortunately able to re-take their place on the pitch and continue on. The Knights equalized in the 60th minute from a quickly taken free kick out wide that saw a great cross put into the box for incoming defender Matthew Marchioro to sweetly header away giving Galaxy keeper Ryan Veitch no chance. Adelaide Galaxy scored late in the match only to have the goal deemed offside by referee Dave Alberton.

After a Round 1 heroic claw-back 1-1 draw by the **MetroStars** against **Adelaide City** last Monday night that saw them go down to 10 men from the 10th minute of the match, coach David Terminello's lads made no mistake this week with a resounding 5-2 win over **Campbelltown City** at home. The Stars faced up to the Red Devils minus two of their great backmen in Lee Robertson and Daniel Menechella, midfielder Michael Pirone and striker Michael Matricciani but had not trouble commanding control for most of the match. Campbelltown

LADDER										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	G	D	Pts	
MetroStars	2	1	1	0	6	3	3	3	4	
Adelaide Galaxy	2	1	1	0	3	2	1	4		
Adelaide City	2	1	1	0	3	2	1	4		
Western Strikers	2	1	0	1	5	4	1	3		
Cumberland Utd	2	1	0	1	4	4	0	3		
Adelaide Cobras	2	1	0	1	4	4	0	3		
Campbelltown	2	1	0	1	3	5	-2	3		
Para Hills	2	0	2	0	2	2	0	2		
Raiders	2	0	1	1	2	3	-1	1		
Adelaide Blue Eagles	2	0	0	2	2	5	-3	0		

SA RESULTS										
DEVINE HOMES SUPER LEAGUE										
Adelaide Blue Eagles 2 (K.Harris,C.Bugeja)										
Western Strikers 4 (C.Flanagan, C.Middleton, S.Stefanopoulos, M.Radocaj)										
(HT 0-1)										
Best – Blue Eagles (D.Kenrick, C.Annicchiarico, L.Sattin)										
Strikers (C.Noujaim, F.DaSilva, C.Middleton)										
Res – Blue Eagles 2										
Strikers 0										
U19 – Blue Eagles 1										
Strikers 0										
Cumberland United 1 (S.Smith)										
Adelaide City 2 (N.Orr 2)										
(HT 0-0)										
Best – Cumberland (N.Young, S.Smith, M.Kolar)										
Adel City (J.Negus, M.Halliday, N.Orr)										
Res – Cumberland 2 Adel City 0										
U19 – Cumberland 1 Adel City 0										
Raiders 1 (R.Alagich)										
Adelaide Cobras 2 (J.Okello, P.Marino)										
(HT 1-0)										
Best – Raiders (R.Alagich, K.Francis, A.Jerkic) Cobras (O.Katuka, E.Icolaro, J.Okello)										
Res – Raiders 6										
Cobras 0										
U19 – Raiders 2 Cobras 1										
Adelaide Galaxy 1 (J.Markham)										
Para Hills 1 (M.Marchioro) (HT 1-0)										
Best - Galaxy (S.DeGiovanniello, R.Veitch, J.Markham) Para Hills (D.Bounds, B.Selga, R.Cunha)										
Res - Galaxy 1 Para Hills 0										
U19 - Galaxy 2 Para Hills 0										
MetroStars 5 (S.Tunbridge 2, S.Grelli, D.Kristo, T.O.G.)										
Campbelltown City 2 (J.Trimboli, P.Barbaro) (HT 2-1)										
Best – MetroStars (S.Grelli, S.Tunbridge, D.Kristo) Campbelltown (Not Provided)										
Res – MetroStars 1 Campbelltown 2										
U19 – MetroStars 1 Campbelltown 1										

NEXT WEEK										
Round 3										
Sat 10/04/2010										
Adelaide Cobras vs Adelaide Galaxy										
3pm Weigall Oval										
Campbelltown vs Cumberland Utd										
3pm Newton Village Sports Complex										
Para Hills vs Adelaide Blue Eagles										
7pm The Paddocks										
Western Strikers vs MetroStars										
7pm Carnegie Reserve										
Mon 12/04/2010										
Adelaide City vs Raiders										
7:30pm Adelaide City Park										

were in the box seat having the opportunity to go top of the table with a win that somehow eluded them. The game was filled with some controversial moments that could have got out of control but credit to both teams for maintaining their commonsense and ensuring the match was played out well. MetroStars goal scorers were Scott Tunbridge with a brace, Steven Grelli, Dino Kristo and a T.O.G. while class striker Jason Trimboli and Pat Barbaro netted for the Red Devils. The win takes the 2009 Champions to the top of the Super League table.

All 3 leagues take a break for Easter as qualification games are being played for the Federation Cup.

Knights put Athena to the sword

By Jacob Kragi

Western Knights showed it will be one of the teams to beat again this year with a 2-1 win at fellow title contenders Floreat Athena in round two of the Football West State Premier League.

The Knights were Premiers last year before falling in the Grand Final to Perth SC and showed with an impressive performance they have the potential to go one better this year.

Goals to Gareth Lecky and Stuart Montgomery put the visitors 2-0 up within 18 minutes in a match it dominated, before Branimir Mikulic gave Floreat some hope in the 67th minute by scoring from the penalty spot.

It was Western Knights first win of the season after a disappointing 2-2 home draw against Sorrento in its first match, ensuring it keeps up with the early pace-setters.

Athena now has three points from its two matches, after it thrashed Mandurah last weekend, ahead of next Sunday's blockbuster against Perth.

Balcatta's fairytale start to its Premier League life continued with a 5-3 win over Inglewood United.

Ashley Rosendale scored Balcatta's first four goals, securing a hat-trick in the 54th minute and adding another in the 71st to make it 4-1 and wrap up the three points.

The newly promoted side has won its opening two matches and looks like it should be good enough to avoid relegation, while Inglewood has one win and one loss so far.

Perth SC continued its winning start to its title defence with a 3-1 victory at 2008 Premiers Sorrento.

Adam Hayton put the Gulls ahead after 19 minutes, but goals to Dom De Felice, Robert Sciascia and David Onoforo handed Perth a well deserved victory.

The defending champions have looked solid in both matches so far but Graham Normanton's side will have to lift its game in next week's clash against Floreat, which will give a true indication of its title hopes.

Sorrento is yet to record a win this sea-



WA State League action between Swan United and Cockburn City. PHOTO: FOOTBALL WEST

son but has had a nightmare start with games against Perth and Western Knights and should get its season back on tract at Swan United next weekend. Mandurah City's horror start to the season continued with a 0-2 road loss to ECU Joondalup.

City were finalists last year but have been tipped to struggle by many after an off-season of significant turmoil and did little to ease those concerns with a disappointing performance against ECU. It conceded first from an own goal af-

ter 47 minutes before Garin Collins wrapped up the points for Joondalup two minutes later.

Mandurah sits bottom, without a point from its first two games, with its goal difference of -7 and indication of how far off the pace it has been so far. Swan United caused an upset by winning 1-0 at Cockburn City.

Brendan Knox converted a penalty in the 24th minute to give Swan its surprise victory.

United had been tipped to be in the rel-

egation fight by many this year, but it is Cockburn which has fallen off the pace early, without a point from its two games despite a solid performance against Perth last weekend.

Scott Miller's side will be desperate to bounce back next weekend when it visits Armadale, another side potentially facing a relegation battle, while Swan will look to continue its momentum at home against Sorrento.

LADDER										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	G	D	Pts	
1 Balcatta	2	2	0	0	7	4	3	6		
2 Perth SC	2	2	0	0	5	2	3	6		
3 Western Knights	2	1	1	0	4	3	1	4		
4 Stirling Lions	2	1	1	0	2	1	1	4		
5 Floreat Athena	2	1	0	1	7	3	4	3		
6 Inglewood United	2	1	0	1	5	5	0	3		
7 ECU Joondalup	2	1	0	1	2	2	0	3		
8 Swan United	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	3		
9 Sorrento	2	0	1	1	3	5	-2	1		
10 Armadale	2	0	1	1	2	3	-1	1		
11 Cockburn City	2	0	0	2	1	3	-2	0		
12 Mandurah City	2	0	0	2	1	8	-7	0		

WA RESULTS										
First Team										
ECU Joondalup 2 (OG 48, Collins 59) Mandurah City 0; Sorrento 1(Hayton 19) Perth SC 3 (De Felice 40, Sciascia 47, Onoforo 61); Cockburn City 0 Swan United 1(B. Knox 25); Balcatta 5 (Rosendale 32, 38, 54, 70, Whitehouse 77) Inglewood United 3 (Oseitutu 60, Clarke 75, Wardle 88); Floreat Athena 1 (Mikulic 66 pen) Western Knights 2 (Lecky 5, Montgomery 19)										
Sunday 28 March 2010										
Stirling Lions 1 - 1 Armadale at Macedonia Park										
Reserves										
ECU Joondalup 1 Mandurah City 2; Sorrento 0 Perth SC 6; Cockburn City 1 Swan United 1; Balcatta 1 Inglewood United 1; Floreat Athena 1 Western Knights 2										
Under 18's										
ECU Joondalup 3 Mandurah City1; Sorrento 3 Perth SC 5; Cockburn City 3 Swan United 3; Balcatta 0 Inglewood United 2; Floreat Athena 2 Western Knights 3										

NEXT WEEK										
Round 3										
Sat 3 Apr 3PM Armadale v Cockburn City Alfred Skeet Oval										
Sat 3 Apr 3PM Stirling Lions v Balcatta Macedonia Park										
Sat 3 Apr 3PM Swan United v Sorrento Swan Italian Club										
Sat 3 Apr 3PM Western Knights v ECU Joondalup Nash Field										
Sat 3 Apr 3PM Perth SC v Floreat Athena BGC Stadium - Dorrien Gardens										
Sat 3 Apr 3PM Mandurah City v Inglewood United Hyundai Stadium										

Andy Todd wins glory at Perth

Andy Todd has capped off a wonderful debut season in the Hyundai A-League winning Perth Glory's Most Glorious Player award at the Burswood Grand Ballroom.

In front of more than 650 guests, the star defender polled 34 votes to run away with the count from captain Jacob Burns (23 votes) and Naum Sekulovski (13).

Todd picked up votes in 16 games and received the maximum 3 votes six times.

"I'd just like to thank all my teammates and everyone connected to the club, all the lads have made me feel really welcome," Todd said in a pre-recorded interview.

Unfortunately back in England for a short holiday with his family, Todd said he was wrapt with his first season in Australia.

"I just wanted to come here and enjoy myself and to try and help the players reach bigger and better things.

"I'll be back next season and hopefully we can go one or two steps better."

In a stellar season for the 35 year old, Todd was also crowned:



AndyTodd

- Volunteers' player of the year
- Supporters' player of the year and
- QBE players, player of the year.

"It's a great honour for me and I'm very privileged to receive these awards, I'm very humbled by it all."

Despite the four individual awards,

Todd said he was still hurting from the Glory's dramatic penalty shoot-out loss to Wellington.

"I think we slightly underachieved with the squad we've got.

"You look at our team and we have a decent team on paper.

"I think next season we will look to go a lot better than this season for sure," he said.

Defender Naum Sekulovski won Best Clubman while Mile Sterjovski was awarded the Golden Boot.

In the Youth team, Dean Evans capped off an impressive season, named the Most Glorious Youth player.

Most Glorious Player Leader board:

Andy Todd	34 votes
Jacob Burns	23
Naum Sekulovski	13
Branko Jelic	11
Mile Sterjovski	11
Tando Velaphi	11
Victor Sikora	9
Chris Coyne	8

Futsalroos AFC group decided

The Qantas Futsalroos have been placed alongside Iran, Kuwait and Tajikistan in Group B for the upcoming AFC Futsal Championship 2010 which will be held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan from 23-30 May.

Qantas Futsalroos Head Coach Steven Knight knows that it will be a difficult task to progress to the knock-out stage of the competition but he is optimistic about his team's chances.

"Considering that this is the eleventh edition of the AFC Futsal Championship and that Iran have won the competition nine times, it is obvious that we are placed in a tough group," said Knight

"We had a fantastic qualification tournament, but now the stakes have been raised and we will have to lift our game accordingly.

"Our preparation will have to be more intense than for the qualifiers, but I'm confident that if we play to our potential we can progress to the second round and beyond," concluded Knight .

In the other groups, host nation Uzbekistan has drawn Chinese Taipei, Indonesia and Lebanon in Group A, whilst 2008 runner's up Thailand is drawn in Group C with three-time semi-finalists

Kyrgyzstan, Korea Republic and Vietnam. Group D includes 2006 winners Japan with Turkmenistan, Iraq and China PR.

The Qantas Futsalroos qualified for the AFC Futsal Championship 2010 after going through the AFC Futsal Championship ASEAN Zone qualifiers, which were played in Jakarta in February, undefeated, accounting for the host nation Indonesia 4-1 in the final.

The Qantas Futsalroos squad for the AFC Futsal Championship is expected to be named in May.

AFC Futsal Championship 2010
23-30 May 2010
Tashkent, Uzbekistan
Tournament Groupings and Match Schedule

Group A: Uzbekistan, Chinese Taipei, Indonesia, Lebanon

Group B: Iran, Kuwait, Australia, Tajikistan

Group C: Thailand, Vietnam, Korea Republic, Kyrgyzstan

Group D: Japan, Turkmenistan, Iraq, China PR



Canberra FC retains crown with epic win

By Russ Gibbs

Reigning champions Canberra FC was forced to come from 0-2 behind for the second time in the space of four days in order to retain the Project Coordination Federation Cup with a 3-2 victory over first-time finalists Goulburn Strikers at Deakin Stadium and even survived a late missed penalty to claim the cup.

The Strikers, surprise finalists having just been admitted to the Gatorade Premier League in 2010 for the first time, had a gilt-edged chance to send the match into extra-time but Nicky Rogers saw his penalty kick pushed away by Canberra FC goalkeeper Ben Klug. It wasn't without controversy however, as Rogers had been ordered to re-take his penalty following encroachment at the first attempt.

Lady-luck certainly seemed to desert the Strikers at the critical moments, with Rogers in particular the victim, seeing his late volleyed strike chalked off after Ben Wilson, running the line, had adjudged the ball out of play before Robert Dorsett swung over his inch-perfect right foot cross.

Earlier, the Strikers had found themselves 2-0 ahead in front of a healthy crowd on a warm Canberra afternoon. Having played three games in a week, and seen his squad struck down with a stomach bug following their semi-final success over Belconnen United, Strikers' Coach Carlo Aliffi could have done without seeing one half of his prolific strike duo leaving the field injured inside ten minutes. However, a hamstring pull suffered by Daniel Aliffi curtailed his involvement early on.

The Strikers made light work of the absence of Aliffi though taking the lead after 22 minutes thanks to a superb strike from Brody Willis. The feisty striker picked up the ball 25 metres from goal and set off on an angled run across the face of goal. Entering the penalty area, Willis checked onto his right foot before unleashing a rocket of a shot across Ben Klug in the Canberra FC goal and in off the underside of the cross-bar. The goal was Willis' sixth of the tournament and was worthy of the occasion.

Goulburn should have doubled their lead moments later when Willis and Klug collided on the edge of the box when challenging for the ball with the ricochet fall kindly for Nicky Rogers. The midfielder, however, lifted the al over the bar with the goal at his mercy.

Failing to heed the lessons of Willis' goal and the near miss from Rogers, Canberra



Brody Willis(Goulburn Strikers) in white tussles with Alex Castro (Canberra FC) PHOTO: MELISSA ADAMS/CANBERRA TIMES

FC was guilty of falling asleep again fifteen minutes later as the Strikers, much to the delight of their vociferous support, doubled their advantage.

Willis found space in the Canberra FC half sending a perfect ball wide into the path of the onrushing Sam Taylor who had broken clear of a flat Canberra FC defence. With Klug racing of his line to intercept, Taylor coolly slotted the ball past the 'keeper and watched on in increasing glee as the ball entered the empty net for a 2-0 advantage.

Having been 0-2 down in their semi-final with ANU FC during the week, eventually coming through 5-2 after extra-time, Canberra FC had it all to do once again and so their response, barely 120 seconds later, was critical. Midfield maestro John Glass collected the ball 35 metres from goal and launched a speculative chip that flew over the head of the stranded Jessie Bunt in goal to give the home team a much needed life-line.

Indeed, Canberra FC could have been level going into the break as Bunt was called upon to save smartly from Glass before Adam Spaleta curled a shot just over the cross bar. As it was the Strikers held on to lead 2-1 at the interval.

It was imperative that Goulburn began the second half well but it was Canberra

FC who stole the initiative with a trademark lightning strike. With veteran Elliott Zwangobani forced to leave the field with an injury at the break his replacement, Josip Jadric, wasted little time in making an impact.

The rapid winger received a pass from Adam Spaleta and raced clear down the right before putting over an inch-perfect right wing cross that was met by the head of centre-forward Michael Spaleta who bulleted the ball past Bunt into the net to bring Canberra FC level. Spaleta's header was the burly striker's seventh goal of the competition handing him the 'Golden Boot' as the Federation Cup most prolific scorer.

With the match in the balance it was Canberra FC upped the tempo and amazingly completed their comeback with a goal two minutes later. It was fitting that it was Adam Spaleta, the most creative player on the field that struck what proved to be the winning goal. Receiving a lay-off outside the area Spaleta unleashed a beautiful curling drive of such power that if flashed past Bunt into the top corner giving the 'keeper no chance.

With their resolve broken it would have been easy for the Strikers to fold, but this team is made of sterner stuff and are sure to shake-up the Premier League on this per-

formance. Taking the game to their more illustrious opposition they forced a late penalty, after Klug was adjudged to have fouled Rogers in the area, only to see the spot-kick blocked at the second attempt, before the even later disallowed goal.

There was time for one final fling from Goulburn when a corner appeared to strike John Glass on the arm, but the appeals were to no avail and referee Richard Naumovski brought the match to a close to complete a wonderfully exciting game which was a terrific advert for football in the nation's capital.

*Earlier in the week Goulburn Strikers had upset Belconnen United with a 5-4 penalty shoot-out win in the semi-final. The Blue Devils from Belconnen had taken the lead with a Cameron Reinhart goal before Brody Willis levelled matters with a cracking equaliser. Belconnen had the better chances late on, but the Strikers held on for penalties. In the shoot-out goalkeeper Jessie Bunt saved twice, once brilliantly from Taylor Beaton, leaving Eddy Harris to send Goulburn to the final. Canberra FC ensured their place in the showdown having come from 0-2 down to equalise in the last minute, before scoring three extra-time goals to defeat ANU FC. A Daniel Sparrow brace gave the students the two-goal cushion, before Michael Spaleta reduced the deficit and Alex Castro sent the match into extra-time. Three goals in the first four minutes of the extra half-hour killed the contest with John Glass (2) and Josip Jadric doing the damage. Glass could even afford to see his penalty saved by ANU FC goalkeeper James Bradbury as Canberra FC cruised home.

FOUR-IN-A-ROW FOR BELWEST FOXES

Brilliant Belwest Foxes made it four-in-a-row as they won the Project Coordination Federation Cup for the fourth year in succession at Deakin Stadium with a devastating 5-1 defeat of closest challengers Woden Valley.

Canberra United W-League player Cian Maciejewski was the goal hero claiming a hat-trick to take her tournament tally to a scarcely credible twelve in only for appearances, cementing her position as the tournament's leading goal scorer in some fashion.

ACT RESULTS

2010 MEN'S PROJECT COORDINATION FEDERATION CUP FINAL

Canberra FC 3 (John Glass 38', Michael Spaleta 51', Adam Spaleta 53') defeated Goulburn Strikers 2 (Brody Willis 22', Sam Taylor 37')

GOULBURN STRIKERS: 1. Jessie Bunt (gk), 3. Bradley Roberts, 5. Josh Phelps, 6. Eddy Harris, 7. Daniel Albrighton, 8. Blayne Hudson, 9. Daniel Aliffi (16. Robert Dorsett 13'), 10. Brody Willis, 11. Nicky Rogers, 13. Sam Taylor, 17. Andrew Aliffi (c)

CANBERRA FC: 18. Ben Klug (gk), 4. Marcin Zygmunt, 5. John Glass, 6. Alex Castro, 7. Paul Ivanic (c) (10. Stephen Lee 66'), 8. Elliott Zwangobani (14. Josip Jadric 46'), 9. Michael Spaleta, 11. Ivan Pavlak (12. Ian Graham 89'), 17. Aidan Brunskill, 19. Adam Spaleta, 21. Victor Yanes Discipline: YELLOW CARDS: 18. Ben Klug (Canberra FC) Match Officials: Richard Naumovski (referee), Ben Wilson, Luke Withell, Greg Taylor (4th official)

3rd/4th Place Play Off: Belconnen United 2 (David Leet, Jason O'Dwyer) defeated ANU FC 1 (Mohsen Ravanparsa)

2010 WOMEN'S PROJECT COORDINATION FEDERATION CUP FINAL

Belwest Foxes 5 (Cian Maciejewski 25', 46', 50', Hope Wilkins 42', Alice Nicola 81') defeated Woden Valley 1 (Georgia Yeoman-Dale 90+4)

BELWEST FOXES: 1. Melanie Luksa (gk), 3. Cian Maciejewski (c), 4. Kate Walker (12. Lee Dickson), 5. Hope Wilkins (14. Alice Nicola), 6. Katrina Staniforth, 9. Georgia Chapman, 10. Snez Veljanovska, 13. Julia Hoy, 17. Sophia Merkoureas (2. Shaheen Goodrick), 18. Hayley Buckingham (11. Emma Beaumont), 22. Kim Crocker (16. Lucy Hanrahan)

WODEN VALLEY: 1. Gill Raymond (gk), 2. Krista Hagen, 3. Ellen Kromar (c), 4. Isabella Boag-Taylor, 7. Sally Rojahn, 9. Monique Solar, 10. Ashleigh Palombi (8. Hayley Hinde), 11. Georgia Yeoman-Dale, 13. Emma Thornton, 15. Catherine Brown (5. Meg McLaughlin), 17. Erin Frewin (2. Stephanie Coates) Discipline: YELLOW CARDS: 3. Cian Maciejewski (Belwest Foxes), 9. Monique Solar (Woden Valley)

Match Officials: Alasdair Grocock (referee), Boyd Jonas, Richard Brown, David Ockerby (4th official)



Four-in-a-row champs Belwest Foxes. PHOTO: RUSS GIBBS



COUCH POTATO DEPT.

* ALL TIMES ARE AEDT

SETANTA SPORTS

Mon 29th March
8:00 am Ajax vs FC Groningen
9:45 am Le Mans vs Rennes
11:30 am 1899 Hoffenheim vs Freiburg
1:15 pm Rubin Kazan vs Terek
3:00 pm Bundesliga Highlights
4:00 pm Ajax vs FC Groningen
5:45 pm Serie A Highlights
6:30 pm Ligue 1 Highlights
7:30 pm Bundesliga Highlights
8:30 pm Serie A Highlights
9:15 pm Sampdoria vs Cagliari
11:00 pm Bundesliga Highlights

Tuesday 30th March
12:00 am MUTV: Bolton vs Man Utd
2:00 am MUTV: Match Day Live
3:00 am Lyon vs Grenoble
4:45 am Serie A Highlights
5:30 am Copa Libertadores Highlights
5:55 am Monaco vs Auxerre
10am Dinamo Moscow vs Zenit St Petersburg
1pm Copa Libertadores Highlights
1:30 pm Monaco vs Auxerre
3:15 pm Borussia Monchengladbach vs Hamburg
5:15 pm Monaco vs Auxerre
7:00 pm SPL Highlights
7:30 pm Portugal
8:00 pm MUTV: The Big Match with Denis Irwin
9:00 pm MUTV: The Paddy Crerand Show
10:00 pm MUTV: United in Press
10:30 pm MUTV: When the Floodlights Fade
11:00 pm SPL Highlights
11:30 pm Portugal

Wed 31st March
12:00 am CHTV: Chelsea vs Aston Villa
2:00 am CHTV: Minto and Cundy's Weekend Review
3:00 am 1899 Hoffenheim vs Freiburg
4:45 am Le Mans vs Rennes

6:30 am Palermo vs Bologna
8:15 am Bayer Leverkusen vs Schalke 04
11:45 am Benfica vs Braga
1:30 pm SPL Highlights
2:00 pm Ligue 1 Highlights

Thurs 1st April
12:00 am Barca TV: Mallorca vs Barcelona
3:00 am VfL Bochum vs Frankfurt
6:00 am Kawasaki Frontale vs Shimizu Pulse
7:45 am Sampdoria vs Cagliari
9:25 am Cruzeiro vs Velez Sarsfield
11:30 am Lille vs Montpellier
1:15 pm 1899 Hoffenheim vs Freiburg
3:00 pm Portugal
3:30 pm Hearts vs Rangers
5:15 pm Cruzeiro vs Velez Sarsfield
7:00 pm J-League Highlights
11:00 pm J-League Highlights
11:30 pm Serie A Highlights

Fri 2nd April
12:15 am Palermo vs Bologna
2:00 am Bundesliga Highlights
3:00 am Dinamo Moscow vs Zenit St Petersburg
4:45 am Ligue 1 Highlights
:45 am Monaco vs Auxerre
7:30 am Serie A Highlights
8:15 am Bundesliga Highlights
9:10 am Corinthians vs Cerro Porteno
11:15 am Goall Bundesliga Preview
11:45 am Barca TV: Arsenal vs Barcelona
2:45 pm Portugal
3:15 pm Benfica vs Braga
5:00 pm MUTV: Bayern Munich vs Man Utd
6:45 pm MUTV: Match Day Live
8:00 pm J-League Highlights
10:00 pm Corinthians vs Cerro Porteno
11:45 pm Hearts vs Rangers

Sat 3rd April
1:45 am Celtic vs Kilmarnock
3:30 am Bundesliga Highlights
4:30 am Ligue 1 Preview
5:00 am Goall Bundesliga Preview
8:00 am Ligue 1 Preview
8:30 am J-League Highlights
9:00 am MUTV: Wigan vs Man Utd
9:30 am MUTV: Alex Ferguson - My Greatest Moment
10:30 am MUTV: The Manager's Press Conference
11:00 am MUTV: Countdown to Kick Off
12:00 pm Copa Libertadores Highlights
12:30 pm Goall Bundesliga Preview
7:55 pm Urawa Reds vs Shonan Belmare
10:00 pm Serie A Highlights
10:45 pm CSKA Moscow vs Zenit St Petersburg

Sun 4th April
12:30 am SPL Highlights
12:55 am Rangers vs Hamilton
2:00 am Goall Bundesliga Preview
2:25 am Cologne vs Hertha Berlin
4:30 am Ligue 1 Preview
4:55 am Udinese vs Juventus
K.O 5:00am EST. 7:00 am TBC
8:45 am Borussia Dortmund vs Werder Bremen
10:30 am Bari vs Roma
12:15 pm Rangers vs Hamilton
2:00 pm FC Porto vs Maritimo
3:45 pm Montpellier vs Monaco
5:30 pm Udinese vs Juventus
7:15 pm Cologne vs Hertha Berlin
9:00 pm Copa Libertadores Highlights
10:10 pm Hibernian vs Celtic

Mon 5th April
12:25 am Kilmarnock vs Aberdeen
2:30 am ADO Den Haag vs Ajax
3:00 am Auxerre vs PSG
4:55 am Auxerre vs PSG

SBS One
Mon 29th March
5:30 pm Futbol Mundial

Wed 31st March
5:30 am UEFA Champions League
Man U v Bayern Munich

Thurs 1st April
5:30 am UEFA Champions League
Inter Milan v CSKA Moscow
10:00 pm UEFA Champions League
Hour

Fri 2nd April
5:45 am UEFA Europa League
Valencia v Atletico Madrid

SBS Two
Wed 31st March
8.3epm UEFA Champions League
Man U v Bayern Munich



The Futbol Town Show
Every Monday 7pm

Extra Time Magazine Show
Every Wednesday 8pm

The Green Gully Football Show
Every Saturday 10.30am

FOX SPORTS

WEEK 33
Tues Mar 30 Manchester City v Wigan 5.55 am (Fox 1)

WEEK 34
sat Apr 3 Manchester United v Chelsea 10.40 pm (Fox 3)
Sun Apr 4 Arsenal v Wolves 12.55 am (Fox 3)
Sun Apr 4 Bolton v Aston Villa 12.55 am Viewers Choice
Sun Apr 4 Portsmouth v Blackburn 12.55 am Viewers Choice
Sun Apr 4 Stoke v Hull 12.55 am Viewers Choice
Sun Apr 4 Sunderland v Tottenham 12.55 am Viewers Choice
Sun Apr 4 Burnley v Manchester City 2.25 am (Fox 3)
Sun Apr 4 Birmingham v Liverpool 11.55 pm (Fox 2)
Mon Apr 5 Everton v West Ham 12.55 am (Fox 3)



Monday 29th March 2010
10:30 pm World Football News
11:30 pm Bundesliga Matchday 28
Bayern Munich V Stuttgart

Tuesday 30th March 2010
07:30 am Serie A Matchday 31 - Teams TBA
12:00 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights

Wednesday 31st March 2010
07:30 am Bundesliga (Rpt) Matchday 28
Bayern Munich V Stuttgart

Thursday 01st April 2010
04:00 pm Serie A (Rpt) Matchday 31
Teams TBA



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V-LEAGUE

THE VICTORIAN HOME OF FUTSAL
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PREMIERSHIP

COMPETITION REWIND

HISTORY OF THE V-LEAGUE

By Adam Hussein

THE LEGEA V-League has been going strong for seven seasons now, a lot has changed since the inaugural season. The league has been expanded several times and had multiple winners, MVP's and leading goal kickers. Coaches have come & gone, players have shone, fallen and transferred, and spectators have frothed at the mouth, all for a thriving sport in a state that is fastly embracing Futsal.

SEASON ONE - 2007
14 Rounds
Champions: *The Sultans*
Top Goal Scorer: *Peter Parthimos 41 goals (FC Melbourne)*
Best & Fairest: *Ahmed Azzam (Sultans FC)*

The first season of the Futsal Oz V-League Premiership was fought out between eight gunning sides, FC Melbourne, Sultans FC, FC Brunswick, Brunswick FC, Metro-Central FC, Brunswick United, Carlton F.C and Moreland FC. The Sultans & Brunswick FC were the early front runners with Moreland FC tied to the bottom of the ladder.

FC Brunswick made a climb towards the top of the table midway through the season with a 7-4 win over Carlton & 10-5 win over Moreland. The Sultans only lost three games all season to Brunswick United 7-6, runners up FC Brunswick 6-3 & 3rd placed Metro-Central 4-2. The Sultans finished on 33 points, 3 points clear of new-found rivals FC Brunswick & 4 points clear of Metro-Central in what was a gripping finish to the 2007 V-League Premiership.



SEASON TWO - 2007/08
16 Rounds
Champions: *FC Brunswick*
Top Goal Scorer: *Salim Jenaby 35 goals (Sultans FC)*
Best & Fairest: *Dimitri Vithoulkas (FC Brunswick)*

The second edition of the V-League premiership got off to a bang with a thrilling round one clash between last seasons title rivals the Sultans & FC Brunswick. Salim & Radwan hat-tricks were only out done by three goals to Verikakis and four goals to young superstar Dimitri Vithoulkas. FC Brunswick won 4 in a row and only lost to a wily Nectar Karalis and his Metro-Central team (Metropolitan FC).

The Sultans went about there business quietly but confidently and had another terrific season. They finished top of the pile with 12 wins, 3 draws and 1 loss (39 points). FC Brunswick weren't too far behind with 12 wins & 4 losses (36 points) and surprise packet Carlton FC 3rd with 31 points.

The final four went into finals playoffs with Pascoe Vale FC & FC Brunswick meeting in the final. FC Brunswick won 7-6 in a nail biting thriller. Verikakis, Vithoulkas & Kyriopolous were all strong for FC Brunswick, and

were too good for the Manny Karas led Pascoe Vale FC.

FC Brunswick's formidable team Peter Kyriopolous, Nick Tsamis, Peter Christofilas, John Tsamis, Nick Kyriopolous (C), John Verikakis, Dimitri Vithoulkas, George Vithoulkas

SEASON THREE - 2008
14 Rounds
Champions: *Fitzroy FC*
Top Goal Scorer: *John Verikakis 42 goals (FC Brunswick)*
Best & Fairest: *James Blackburn (Fitzroy FC), Dimitri Vithoulkas (FC Brunswick) & John Verikakis (FC Brunswick)*

Season three got underway with Metro Central (Metropolitan FC) beating FC Brunswick by a goal in the cards opening match. It was evident that their was a change in the guard with FC Melbourne & Fitzroy fighting for the title this season. Fitzroy was an experimental squad, with a combination of superstars that had barely known each other and it had the doubters speculating!

However it was this Fitzroy side that had a season to remember with some fine individual performances from Mercurial James Blackburn who established himself as a V-League superman scoring bags of goals week in week out. He had memorable matches against Pascoe Vale (5 goals), Metro-Central (3 goals) & Moreland (7 goals). Moreland had a torrid season and only won 2 games and lost 12. Pascoe Vale snuck into the top 4 on goal difference, but they lost to Fitzroy on penalties after a thrilling 10 all draw in the semi final, Fitzroy then steamrolled FC Brunswick 10-1 in the grand final that will be talked about for years to come.

SEASON FOUR - 2008
14 Rounds
Champions: *Nth Melbourne FC*
Top Goal Scorer: *Haider Noor 50 goals (Metro-Central FC)*
Best & Fairest: *Andy Vlahos (Nth Melbourne FC)*
Manager Of the Season: *Alex Efstathiou (Nth Melb FC)*

As each season went on the standard of the V-League grew, and after Fitzroy's exploits sides went after big name signings, grabbing friends

and foes attempting to emulate Fitzroy FC's success from the previous season. Fitzroy had another stellar season finishing in third with 24 points; consistent performances saw FC Melbourne finish in second with 25 points.

New title contenders North Melbourne had a new look side with superstar outdoor footballers Andy Vlahos & Tensal Baser joining the guard. There was no doubt of their exceptional outdoor ability, but how would they adjust in the tight space and ferocity of the V-League. This season was to be monumental as the V-League expanded so did Futsal Oz moving to its current location 407 Victoria street Brunswick and its world class playing surface.

Nectar Karalis did a terrific job with his troops. They rapped up the title with 2 games to go. They were establishing themselves as a side that would crave success over the next few seasons. A side that had been deprived as previous namesake Metro-Central rarely finished in the top 4 in the seasons beforehand.

tans, FC Brunswick & Fitzroy). North blew away teams with ease including an 11-5 victory over Essendon, 9-2 win over FC Melbourne and an amazing 5-1 victory over rivals Fitzroy FC. Tensal Baser was the quiet achiever throughout, solid at the back and scoring quite a few goals as well. Nectar Karalis was one of the goal keepers of the season and deserved the V-League trophy, the first awarded at the new home of Futsal Oz.

A remarkable achievement, the first V-League double and a new standard for the next season.

SEASON SIX - 2009
Champions: *FC Essendon*
Top Goal Scorer: *Alexander Stevanovic 69 goals (FC Essendon)*
Best & Fairest: *Samim Rahim (Metropolitan FC)*
Keeper of the season: *Florian Deffner (Albert Park FC)*
Manager of the Season: *Alexander Stevanovic (FC Essendon)*

In a season shaping up to be the best yet, the V-League expanded from 8 teams to 12 welcoming McLeod FC, Ashburton FC, FC Carlton was back & Albert Park FC. LEGEA jumped onto the V-League Express and kitted out each team in unique stunning kits that sides just frothed to wear.

Fitzroy, North Melbourne & Ashburton (Predominantly the 08 VIC state team) were early favourites. They all got off to promising starts but it was consistent Essendon that topped the pile come seasons end.

One of the matches of the season saw old rivals Fitzroy & North Melbourne play out a thrilling 4-4 draw.

Fitzroy had another good start to this V-League campaign but fell away after too many personnel changes. James Blackburn was back to his best but it wasn't enough for the newly golden outfit. Ashburton was the most inconsistent of the sides but did well to finish 4th.

The goalkeeper of the year Flo Deffner will live long in V-League history; the German frother had some amazing games and established himself as one of the leagues real characters. He would go on to play for Fitzroy in the season after before an emotional farewell and return to Germany.

FC Carlton matched there impressive entrance with a well deserved second place finish 4 points off top. Metropolitan played some sumptuous Futsal and really highlighted how far the v-league had come tactically and technically finishing in third. Albert Park escaped relegation play offs by goal difference, an amazing feat that condemned FC Melbourne and McLeod to the second edition of the Sunday State League championship. Pascoe Vale and Melbourne University survived the drop and in came FC Geelong & Doncaster FC.

SEASON SEVEN - 2009/10
Champions: *Pascoe Vale FC*
Top Goal Scorer: *Alexander Stevanovic 58 goals (FC Essendon)*
Best & Fairest: *Tomislav Grigic (Pascoe*

FC Essendon – A new era of champions Azmer Fazlic (LEGEA) Batko Kalaba GK, Igor Stevanovic, Dushan Bosniac, Alexander Stevanovic (c): Dejan Tomic, Vljajko Bosniac, Zarko Zdrinic, Lubomir Erakovic. Ivan Stevanovic, Vlado Zoric.: Alexander stevanovic

SEASON SEVEN - 2009/10
Champions: *Pascoe Vale FC*
Top Goal Scorer: *Alexander Stevanovic 58 goals (FC Essendon)*
Best & Fairest: *Tomislav Grigic (Pascoe*

2nd Leg Clashes promotion/relegation battles Wed, April 7
TBA FC Geelong v Brimbank FC
TBA Albert Park FC v FC Collingwood
TBA Melb Uni FC v Mickleham FC
Overall score over 2 legs is final

Hume FC promoted to the V-LEAGUE premiership 2010 season
Doncaster FC relegated to the State LEAGUE Championship 2010 season

Monday 29th March 2010

20

NORTHCOTE CITY

2

BENTLEIGH GREENS

0

Match Details:

Northcote City:
C.Theodoridis-Petro-
poulos, H.D'Agostino,
A.Chiappetta, G.Papadopoulos
(J.Theofilopoulos 84'),
H.Kinigopoulos (c),
J.Archimandritis, N.Curtis,
P.Savio, N.Tzoulis, B.Norton,
J.Voulgaris (E.Vitsentzatos
88')

Scorers: J.Voulgaris 41',
B.Norton 86'
Yellow cards: None
Red cards: None

Bentleigh Greens: P.Gavalas,
G.Stavridis (A.Fadljevic 46'),
S.De Vito, C.Anthopoulos,
A.Rojas (D.Alilovic 73'),
T.Ouliaris, J.Webster,
J.Sapazovski, D.Piemonte
(C.Smart 46'), D.Lonvancic,
L.Fitzpatrick

Scorers: None
Yellow cards: C.Anthopoulos,
L.Fitzpatrick, T.Ouliaris
Red cards: None

Man of the Match: B.Norton

Venue: John Cain Memorial
Park
Crowd: 600

City trumps Greens in promotion battle



Northcote fans are ecstatic after John Voulgaris draws first blood against the Bentleigh Greens. PHOTO: PETER PSARROS

By Tony Persoglia

In the battle of the promoted clubs, Northcote City outplayed Bentleigh Greens to claim its first home win of the season. In a somewhat dour struggle, City proved most dangerous on the counter-attack, and late goals in each half sealed an impressive display from a team missing regular forwards in captain Trent Rixon, Ahmet Turer and James Kalifatidis.

The match was a cagey affair, and the opening exchanges were illustrative of two teams reluctant to relinquish the lead in a match that both would have pencilled in as a potential three points at the start of the season.

The first serious foray on goal came from the home team in the 17th minute, when Nick Tzoulis produced a well-timed through ball to find a breaking Bradley Norton, only to be stopped by a desperate George Stavridis with a superbly timed tackle. Three minutes later, Dean Piemonte executed some neat skill, creating some space for a

left-foot strike of his own which failed to trouble Chris Petropoulos in the City goal.

City would have felt aggrieved not to take the lead in the 26th minute, when Jim Archimandritis put Norton through on goal with an inch-perfect pass. The defender-cum-winger appeared certain to score if it were not for some fantastic keeping from Peter Gavalas, who charged off his line to execute a brilliant save. Paul Savio was on hand to pick up the rebound, but the former South Australian was denied again by the composed Gavalas.

Despite the warning signs, the following ten minutes proved the Greens' most dangerous, with regular long balls from set pieces troubling the Northcote City defence, which appeared uncertain by the aerial onslaught. Their best chances came in the 31st minute, with a penetrating corner testing a composed Petropoulos, and in the 34th minute, where a cross-cum-shot from Piemonte could easily have taken a deflection into the City goal.

But just as the Greens' appeared to wrestle the ascendancy, Northcote took the lead after a piece of individual

brilliance from birthday boy Jonathan Voulgaris. After winning a contentious ball on the half-way line, Voulgaris broke with an electrifying turn of pace, leaving Con Anthopoulos and Jack Webster in his wake as he charged into the penalty box. Again, Gavalas was quick off his line, but the 18-year-old makeshift striker was alert enough to slot the ball past the keeper and celebrate his passage into adulthood with style.

Goran Lozanovski was called into action during the break, executing a couple of changes for Bentleigh – Stavridis and Piemonte relieved of their duties in favour of Adam Fadljevic and Craig Smart. However, it was Northcote who had the first serious chance in the second half, Voulgaris creating a mouth-watering opportunity for Norton in the 68th minute, who drove his shot wide with an open goal beckoning.

As Northcote searched for a second, the Greens' best chances appeared to come from the counter-attack, but it was a clearance error from the experienced George Papadopoulos which provided Alex Rojas with a guilt-edged chance, his searching long range shot

failing to trouble the scoresheet. Barely a minute later, and Damir Lonvancic almost surprised Petropoulos with a looping header, the City custodian relieved to see it just clear the crossbar.

Northcote City ultimately found a second with only four minutes of normal time remaining, when Nick Curtis executed a delightful through pass that found man-of-the-match Norton in acres of space, the former Victory youth-teamer taking his chance to seal a significant win for the home team and its loyal supporters.

Northcote City head into the Easter break with consecutive clean sheets and seven points from three games, and can look forward to a visit to Knights Stadium where it will face the inconsistent Sunshine Georgies. Bentleigh Greens, no doubt smarting after their first loss of the season, return home in Round 6 for a clash against the struggling Green Gully.



Northcote captain Harry Kinigopoulos nips in to help out keeper Chris Petropoulos Luke Fitzpatrick, who challenged in the air is now on the deck. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON



Brad Norton is acclaimed by the Northcote faithful and raises the decibels at John Cain Reserve after putting the icing on the cake to a well deserved victory by the home side. PHOTO: PETER PSARROS

GREEN GULLY



1

ALTONA MAGIC



3

Green Gully:
K.Gerohchristodoulou,
R.Ollerton, S.Burton,
M.Medjedovic, C.Drake(J.
Groenewald), D.Fak,
J.Fleming, G.Wales(M.Sand-
ers), G.Hockless(J.Munoz),
N.Robinson, A.Vargas.

Altona Magic:
A.Sfetkopoulos, M.Bojku,
K.Delev, d.Radojicic, K.Delev,
P.Sivevski, K.Taseski,
P.Cergovski, T.Saric(A.Sanad),
S.Bozinovski, J.Duvcevski.

Man of the Match: Kole Delev
Crowd: 1000

Green Gully: 1
Goals: Gary Wales 20'
Yellow Cards: Vargas, Fleming,
Robinson, Drake

Altona Magic: 3
Goals: Slave Bozinovski 9',
Tony Saric 42', Koce Delev 43'
Yellow Cards: Mifit, Saric,
Bozinovski, Duvcevski
Red Cards: Mifit



Dean Fak made a return to Gully's line-up but was unable to help avoid defeat. PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS

Paul Harris Takes Charge, Plenty of Work Ahead for Gully

By Markian Jaworsky

It was a dramatic week for the Green Gully Cavaliers. The club, by mutual agreement parted company with Coach Peter Ollerton, and his assistant Paul Harris stepped up to take over.

In a promising show midweek, the Cavaliers drew 1-1 with the National Training Centre (a new collection of younger players from Melbourne Victory and the Victorian Institute of Sport), making Gully the first VPL club to take any points from the N.T.C. Matthew Sanders had scored in the NTC match, and returned to the bench for the seniors after suffering from the flu.

New Coach Paul Harris opted for one change to the starting line up,

Dean Fak returned to the defense, Nick Robinson pushed back up forward from midfield at the expense of Joshua Groenewald. The match started in positive fashion with both teams out to score goals. Unfortunately for the home, it was Altona who scored first. Slave Bozinovski headed in a corner kick, with Gully keeper Gerochristodoulou stranded after rushing off his line. Slave's goal was only Altona's second goal of the season. Worse for Green Gully, that by halftime, Altona would go onto score their third and fourth goal of the season as well.

Gary Wales scored his second goal in two weeks, and yet again found himself replaced by the coach at halftime along with high profile recruit Graham Hockless. After the match, in an interview to be aired on the Green Gully

Soccer Show next Saturday, Paul Harris explained that whatever change he made at halftime, that someone would be labelled a scapegoat, but insisted change was required. Neither team put on a demonstration of how best to play defensive football, as Gary Wales' equaliser was quite the easy shot with all the time in the world. However Altona Magic punished poor defending of Green Gully with goals from Tony Saric and former Gully striker Koce Delev. The Cavaliers did most of the attacking in the second half, but with Altona up by two goals, they crowded the defense and home team couldn't break down the Magic backline headed by former Gully defender Kole Delev.

Paul Harris after the match revealed "I've told the players that this is as low

as it can get, and that we can only improve from here. With the players in this squad we are capable... I am now in the firing line, and coaching this club is not an easy role, as the expectations are so high."

In the Under 21's, the Green Gully youngsters had supporters rubbing their eyes with disbelief, winning their first match of the season by 3 goals to nil, after a dreadful start to the season. Under 21 coach Lubo Lapsansky had had a tough introduction to this level of football, but under guidance of Ian Dobson has begun to win over his players faith with more effective coaching methods and instructions. The all successful Ian Dobson will also provide consultative advice to new senior coach Paul Harris.



It's a jungle out there! Gully's Jeff Fleming is hounded by Altona's Pece Siveski (10) and Tony Saric (18). PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS



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DANDENONG THUNDER



0

SOUTH MELBOURNE



2

Dandenong Thunder:
Webster, S., Osman, L.,
Rexhepi, S., Bright, J.,
Stergiopoulos, M., Da-
vidson, R., Armenian, H.,
Bulloch, S., Bahnsen, N.,
Dilorio, J., Avdulai, A. (
Korcari, V. 60')

Bookings: Davidson (Y)

South Melbourne:
Zois, P. Mrkela , S, O'Dor,
S. (Cetkin, E. 32'), Vasi-
levski, D (De Moraes, F.
76'), Recchia, C., De Nit-
tis, G, Torrens, S. (Vra-
nesevic, S. 79'), Tavsancio-
glu, R., Gaparis, M.,
Stefanou, J., Petrovic, S.

Scorers : Gasparis 53', De
Nittis 90 + 3'

Bookings: Recchia (Y)

Man of the Match:
Carl Recchia (South)

Crowd: 1200
Venue: George Andrews
reserve



South Marinos Gasparis turns his
Thunder markers.

PHOTO: GEORGE STOGIANNOU

South Shakes Down the Thunder



South Melbourne players mob Marinos Gasparis after opening the scoring against the Thunder on Saturday.

PHOTO: GEORGE STOGIANNOU

By George Stogiannou

South Melbourne consolidated its undefeated start to the season whilst consigning Dandenong Thunder to its fourth loss in a row with a 2-0 win at George Andrews reserve on Saturday evening.

South achieved its win in a solid rather than spectacular style. Playing with lone striker Gianni De Nittis, the visitors successfully stifled its opponent by controlling the middle and defending tightly. Against a tightly structured opponent, a subdued home team managed to create just a few clear openings but when they came along, spurned their chances.

In the first half Thunder's Stuart Webster was the busier keeper. He coped comfortably with the visitor's early attacking sorties, which advanced through the middle and usually ended with a shot from outside the box. However a Daniel Vasilevski cross out wide in the 29th minute, produced a Sam Torrens header at the far post which

tested Webster and almost opened the scoring..

Neither side had settled into a rhythm in a cagey opening although South looked the more threatening going forward. Dandenong's central defenders Lev Osman and Noel Bahnsen provided stern opposition in the first half with Bahnsen's timely intervention defusing a potent South attack inside the box.

At the other end, South skipper Rama Tavsancioglu kept a close rein on former teammate Hamlet Armenian restricting the home team's attacking width. Thunder's best attacking moment of the half came just before the break when striker Joe Dilorio beat South keeper Peter Zois to the ball, only to shoot into the side netting from a wide angle.

The customary Thunder charge didn't eventuate after the break. Instead it was the visitors who went ahead early in the second half when midfielder Carl Recchia cut in from the right side and launched a stinging left foot drive which proved too hot for Webster

to handle. South midfielder Marino Gasparis was quickest to react to the keeper's parry and tapped home from close range.

The goal prompted the introduction of Thunder striker Veton Korcari from the bench and sparked a ten-minute spell of attack from the home team in which they created three clear scoring opportunities to Dilorio, Scott Bulloch and Ryan Davidson. Unfortunately for Dandenong, all shots missed the target without testing the keeper. South regained composure in the last 15 minutes of the game and scored the sealer in injury time when De Nittis converted a cross from Sasha Vranesovic out wide on the right.

Thunder coach Stuart Munro said of his team afterwards, " Their confidence is obviously dented quite heavily, but I still thought we had enough quality out there tonight...We had a few players back and I thought we did enough to get something out of the game. We probably had three or four good chances to score. Last year they probably would have gone in for

us. This year they're not. ...We've not gone into our shell, or hiding from the fact that we've lost three or four games in a row. We're all trying our best to turn it around.. but it's going to take something along the way, either spectacular goal or a big bungle (from an opponent) to change our fortunes at the moment and get us across the line. At the moment we're struggling to score and struggling to keep a clean sheet and with that formula it's not good at the moment. But again, I don't think the team's dead on their feet, I don't think we're easy beats."

Munro says he expects the team will be close to full strength in time for Thunder's next match, the grand final replay against Altona Magic on the 10th April.

South's win sends it into the top four and in a confident mood for its next match, the tradition derby against struggling Heidelberg United at home in a fortnight.

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HUME CITY



3

SUNSHINE GEORGIES



2



Michael Sacks (Sunshine) takes a tumble following a heading duel with Zoran Petrevski (right). Chris Konstas is also in the tangle.

PHOTO BY JOHN PUNSHON

Hume blitz Georgies

By Luke Sheehan

SUNSHINE George Cross fell to its second consecutive loss in the Victorian Premier League, losing to the unbeaten Hume City 3-2 at Broadmeadows Valley Park on Sunday.

The Georgies conceded three goals in the space of 14 minutes to go down 3-0, but a fightback led by Stuart Nicholson put the Georgies within reach in the dying stages.

City's Richard Cardozo hit a brace in the 51st and 65th minutes, which sandwiched Zoran Petrevski's 62nd minute effort.

Nicholson opened the George Cross scoring in the 75th minute, before hitting a perfect cross for George Papadopoulos, who headed home in second-half injury time.

But it was too late to salvage a point for Sunshine, as the ref signalled full time moments later. Sunshine coach Andy O'Dell was frustrated with his side's defence, which has let through nine goals in five games.

"Defensively, from start to finish in the second half we lost concentration, we don't pick up, we don't get tight and we got punished by, what I thought for a team that's won four games, were beatable," he said.

O'Dell was happy though with his side's first half efforts in quelling the high-scoring City.

"We could have been two-nil up at half time, I thought we were the team that dominated the game.

"Disappointed with the second half performance, first half we did well. We've worked on things. Second half we switch off and get punished."

Unfortunately for George Cross, the floodgates opened soon after the break, leaving Sunshine with five points from five games.

Hume, on the other hand, has won five out of five, and have scored 13 goals in those five games, sending a big warning to the rest of the competition. City media manager Ezel Hikmet said his side was on top for the majority of the 90 minutes on Sunday.

"We had full control of the game, they had the wind in the first half that made them look like they were in control," he said.

"Our defence got substituted, Phil Riccobene went off with a leg injury in the first half, Isyan Erdogan had a split eye and was taken to hospital and Steven Pace came off with a swollen knee, so our whole defence was pretty much depleted. That's when they scored their two goals."

Hikmet also hit out at Hume City Council for allowing City to play at Broadmeadows Valley Park.

"Being the only VPL team in the city of Hume, we would have expected a lot better conditions for this club.

"It's a cows paddock, it's a ground that's very dangerous, it's a hazard for injuries as well. We want to keep our best players on the track because we believe we've got the team to go all the way this year."



Goran Talevski climbs on board to share the joy with Zoran Petrevski

PHOTO BY JOHN PUNSHON

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MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

3

RICHMOND EAGLES

1

Match Details:

Melbourne Knights: Ante Loncaric, Ben Surey, Bryan Bran (Ryan Filipovic 45'), Daniel Rocco, Liam Cannell (Gazdend Hajdini 71'), Josip Magdic, Kevin Townson, Adrian Zahra, Tomislav Skara, Jean-Charles Dubois (Tommy Ples 67'), Anthony Colosimo

Goals: Jean-Charles Dubois 13', Kevin Townson 68', 83'

Richmond: Stjepan Gal, Andrew Viola, Dimitri Tsiaris, Jessie Krncevic, Daniel Visevic, David Scullion, Tomislav Uskok, Antun Kovacic, Michael Catalano, Liam Ryan, Tomislav Milardovic

Goals: Daniel Visevic 7'

Crowd: 1,250 – 1,500

Man of the match: Kevin Townson



Inset: Man of the match Kevin Townsend gets a kiss for his brace. PHOTO: STEVE STAREK

Main picture: Jean Charles Dubois scores for the Knights. PHOTO: STEVE STAREK

Knights open season account

By Karlo Jelincic

The Melbourne Knights posted its first win of the season thanks to a brace from Kevin Townson, which saw the Knights record an impressive 3-1 victory over the highly fancied Richmond at Knights Stadium

The Knights who had shown much promise in the opening matches of the season finally saw everything come together for the side, as the North Sunshine club announced itself as a genuine finals contender.

Right from the kick-off Knights striker Kevin Townson was causing headaches for the Richmond defence, with the Englishman having two excellent chances in the opening 5 minutes. Both chances were saved by the steady Stjepan Gal.

On the 7th minute against the run of

play an all too familiar defensive lapse from the Knights saw Daniel Visevic stroll into the box as he easily brushed off Knights captain Daniel Rocco before slotting home the opener with a great finish.

It wasn't too long before the Knights equalised. On the 13th minute a perfectly taken corner from Townson found the head of Jean-Charles Dubois at the near post, the Frenchman's header was unstoppable as it hit the back of the net.

The rest of the half saw the Knights with the upper hand controlling the play as Richmond struggled to get into the game, though the home-side was unable to capitalise on their possession and create any genuine chances.

An early chance in the second half fell to Liam Cannell, he was released on goal by a great ball from Josip Magdic. On a tight angle Cannell let off a ripping shot that had the keeper beaten but whisked

just past the post.

Dubois should have had his second of the match a few minutes later, some poor Richmond defending saw the ball fall straight to the feet of Dubois right in front of goal. The Frenchman seemed almost surprised as he fumbled the ball, giving Gal the chance he needed to pounce on the ball.

Midway through the second half a high lob into the box was met by Tommy Ples at the near post. With his back towards goal the Canadian import got the high ball expertly under control and with a quick turn sent the ball across the face of goal where Townson was waiting to tap it in to give the home-side the lead.

By this stage of the match Richmond was barely holding on as they were clearly struggling to contain the fierce and unrelenting attack of the Knights.

On the 76th minute Adrian Zahra was brought down just outside the box, win-

ning a free kick for the Knights in dangerous territory. A confident Townson stepped up and fired in a rocket of a shot which went just agonisingly wide of the mark.

Another great piece of play from Zahra saw him open up the Richmond defence as he stormed at goal, the youngster then cut the ball back to the unmarked Gazdend Hajdini. The substitute hit the ball straight into a defende, much to his own frustration.

Hajdini had an opportunity to redeem himself soon after as he found himself on the receiving end of a pin-point long ball. On a one-on one with the keeper Hajdini struck the ball straight into the keeper, the parried ball fell into the path of Zahra. The follow up shot was again saved by Gal.

With the match coming to a close the Knights sealed the win with Townson grabbing his second of the match. A

perfectly executed through ball slipped straight through to Townson who made no mistake as he struck the ball past a hapless Gal to make it 3-1.

The win sees the Knights finally lift themselves out of the minus points, as they sit in 11th position on 2 points. The Knights will now be hoping to build some momentum as they face a tough away match against the Oakleigh Cannons in a fortnight's time

Richmond on the other hand will be bitterly disappointed in their performance, though they still find themselves sitting in the top 5. And things won't be getting any easier in their next match when they host league leaders Hume City.

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HEIDELBERG UNITED



1

OAKLEIGH CANNONS



1

TEAM LINE-UPS:

Heidelberg United: TILOVSKI - LAZARIDIS, HOSSAINI (ALEKSOVSKI 71'), MILLER, GALANOS, MATKOVIC, KOZIC, BASMA (DEL MELO 79'), BYLES, ELVIN, EDERARO.

Subs not used: MORALES, KUYUCU, SAGLAM

Goal: EDERARO 32'

Yellow cards: BASMA

Oakleigh Cannons: MCMASTER - CUMMING, FITZGERALD, S. DRAKOS, OBRADOVIC (A. DRAKOS 60'), DAMIANOS, KARPEH, WATSON, CURCIJA (DIACO 77'), WEBSTER (PALINIC 46')

Subs not used PANAGOPOULOS, AGUSTIN

Goal: CURCIJA 61'

Yellow cards: nil



Action from the late VPL game last night between Sunshine Georgies and Bentleigh Greens. PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS

Honours Even at Village

By John Fotinos

Round 5 of the 2010 VPL season was rounded out with a clash pitting bottom of the table Heidelberg United against top side Oakleigh Cannons at the Olympic Village. Although the final 1-1 result saw the points shared, it would be the Heidelberg United outfit that would feel they have let a glorious opportunity to record their first win of the season slip.

It was a cautious start by both sides with few openings in the first quarter of an hour's play. Heidelberg's Kozic shot narrowly wide following an errant clearance by Oakleigh, and at the other end Karpeh blasted a shot well over the bar, as the game settled into its rhythm. For the home side, Ederaro was proving a handful for the Oakleigh defence,

as he utilised his pace to great advantage. However, it was Kozic again who might have given Heidelberg the lead after 20 minutes, but he again shot wide of the mark following a knock down header from Hossaini.

Heidelberg gradually got on top of the visitors as the first half wore on & it was no surprise when they took a deserved lead in the 32nd minute through striker Ederaro. McMaster in the Oakleigh goals was unable to hold a stinging shot from Basma & Ederaro was able to slot home the bobbling ball. For the remainder of the half, it was Heidelberg who looked more likely to score a second goal, with Oakleigh collectively on the back foot.

The second half saw the visiting Oakleigh side come out with more purpose. Billy Damianos, well marked by Miller in the first half, came into the game more as Oakleigh sought to level

up the match. In the early part of the second half, they managed to control possession & force Heidelberg on the defensive for perhaps the only time in the match. Just as Heidelberg looked to be weathering the onslaught, a quickly played free kick in Oakleigh's forward half caught the Heidelberg defence napping. An unmarked Curcija was able to shoot past Tilovski and tie up the game at one apiece.

With the game on level terms, both sides sought to attack in search of a second, and perhaps winning goal. Following two defensive errors on the part of Matkovic & then Elvin, Karpeh found himself free in the penalty box, forcing Tilovski into a save & the follow up effort from Waterson was cleared off the line by Heidelberg's Lazaridis. Heidelberg, for their part missed a gilt-edged chance to wrap up the game when Aleksovski was

played through into a one-on-one situation with McMaster. The Heidelberg substitute's finishing let him down as McMaster saved Oakleigh from going a goal down.

Tonight's final result of 1-1 means that heading into the break for Easter, Heidelberg remain at the bottom of the table, still searching for their first win in 2010, and Oakleigh slip to second on the table, just appoint adrift of Hume City.

Following the week off, Oakleigh returns to Jack Edwards Reserve on Friday, April 9 to host the Melbourne Knights. Heidelberg United will make the trip to Bob Jane Stadium to take on arch-rival South Melbourne on Sunday, April 11.

In the Under-21's match tonight, Oakleigh Cannons 2 def Heidelberg United 1



VPL Standings Round 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PT
Hume City	5	5	0	0	13	4	9	12
Oakleigh Cannons	5	3	1	0	9	3	6	11
Richmond	5	3	0	2	9	8	1	9
South Melbourne	5	1	3	0	9	6	3	9
Bentleigh Greens	5	2	2	1	5	4	1	8
Northcote City	5	2	1	2	8	7	1	7
Sunshine Georgies	5	1	2	2	5	7	-2	5
Altona Magic	5	1	2	2	4	4	0	5
Green Gully	5	1	0	4	7	10	-3	3
Dandenong Thunder	5	1	0	4	3	12	-9	3
Melbourne Knights	5	1	2	2	9	10	-1	2
Heidelberg Utd	5	0	2	3	8	12	-4	-1



VPL Round 6

N.T.C v Dandenong Thunder
George Andrews Res Wed 31 Mar KO 8:30PM

Heidelberg Utd v N.T.C
Olympic Village Wed 7 Apr KO 8:30PM

Oakleigh Cannons v Melbourne Knights
Jack Edwards Reserve Fri 9 Apr KO 8:30PM

Bentleigh Greens v Green Gully Cavaliers
Kingston Heath Soccer Complex Fri 9 Apr KO 8:30PM

Richmond v Hume City
Kevin Bartlett Reserve Fri 9 Apr KO 8:30PM

Altona Magic v Dandenong Thunder
Paisley Park Sat 10 KO Apr KO 7:00PM

South Melbourne v Heidelberg Utd
Bob Jane Stadium Sun 11 Apr KO 3:00PM

Sunshine Georgies v Northcote City
Knights Stadium Sun 11 Apr KO 7:00PM

THE WORLD GAME ON A LOCAL LEVEL



**GW wishes all of its readers a
safe and happy Easter.
We will still be available next
week at a newsagent
near you!**



NEW SOUTH WALES

BONDI JUNCTION, RAIL BOOKSTALL BONDI JUNCTION, SHOP 2, 93 GROSVENOR ST
BONDI JUNCTION, BONDI JUNCTION RAILWAY NEWS-AGENCY, GRAFTON ST
BONDI JUNCTION, BONDI JUNCTION NEWSAGENCY, 201 OXFORD ST
BONDI JUNCTION, EASTGATE NEWSAGENCY, 71-91 SPRING ST
CHATSWOOD, CHAT'S NEWSAGENCY, 569 PACIFIC HWY
CHATSWOOD, CHATSWOOD NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 249, 813 PACIFIC H'WAY CNR HELP ST
CHATSWOOD, CHATSWOOD WESTFIELD NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 229-230 WESTFIELD S/TOWN, SPRING ST
HORNSBY , NORTHGATE NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 1066 WESTFIELD S/TOWN
HORNSBY, CORONATION STREET NEWSAGENCY, 16 CORONATION ST
HORNSBY, HORNSBY MALL NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 1 33 FLORENCE ST
HORNSBY HEIGHTS, HORNSBY HEIGHTS NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 4, 110 GALSTON RD
HORNSBY, TO'S NEWSAGENCY HORNSBY WESTFIELD SHOPPINGTOWN, SHOP 1, 33 FLORENCE ST
BURWOOD, TOMKINS & GODWIN NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 2A, 16-22 BURWOOD RD
BURWOOD, BURWOOD NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 7, MURRAY ARCADE, 127-133 BURWOOD RD
PARRAMATTA, DALLAS NEWSAGENCY, THE CONNECTION ARCADE, SHOP 6, 162-172 CHURCH ST
PARRAMATTA, PARRAMATTA CBD NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 16 MAYFAIR MALL, 272 CHURCH ST
PARRAMATTA, SHOP 2 NEW EASTERN SUBWAY, ARGYLE ST
NORTH ROCKS, GOODNEWS NEWSAGENCY, RAMP ON 328-335 NORTH ROCKS RD
NORTH ROCKS, NORTH ROCKS NEWSAGENCY, 312B NORTH ROCKS RD
LIVERPOOL, ELIZABETH DR NEWSAGENCY, UNIT 4 / 1 WOODLANDS RD
LIVERPOOL, LIVERPOOL PLAZA NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 27 LIVERPOOL PLAZA,NORTHUMBERLAND ST
LIVERPOOL, THAI L & V NEWSAGENCY, 64 MOORE ST
HURSTVILLE, FOREST ROAD NEWSAGENCY, 308 FOREST RD
HURSTVILLE, ORMONDE NEWSAGENCY HURSTVILLE, SHOP 4, 14-16 ORMONDE PARADE
HURSTVILLE , NORTH HURSTVILLE NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 4 LEADER BUILDING CNR.FOREST & PARK RD, 182 FOREST RD
MIRANDA , MIRANDA NEWSAGENCY, 88 KIORA RD
MIRANDA, STH MIRANDA NEWSAGENCY, 94A KIORA RD
TUGGERAH, SHOP 1082 WESTFIELD SHOP/TN, COBBS RD
KOTARA, SHOP 133 GARDEN CITY SHOPP CTR, CNR PARK AVE & NORTHCOTT DR
WARRAWONG, SHOP 4, 72-74 KING ST
WARRAWONG, SHOP 39 - 40 WESTFIELD, WESTFIELD SHOPPINGTOWN
WARRAWONG, WARRAWONG NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 1, 145 KING ST
FIGTREE, FIGTREE NEWSAGENCY - SHOP 1, 5 BELLEVUE RD
FIGTREE, FIGTREE NEWSAGENCY - SHOPS 29-30, WEST-FIELD S/CTR THE AVE

ALBURY, SHOP 4, 557 DEAN ST
COROWA , 65 SANGER ST
WAGGA WAGGA, FERNLEIGH RD
BERRIGAN, 26 CHANTER ST
PENRITH, SCHUBACH'S NEWSAGENCY, 495 HIGH ST
PENRITH, SOUTH PENRITH NEWSAGENCY & PO, 157 SMITH ST
PENRITH, MARKETLAND NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 1, 7 CALLOOLA AVE
PENRITH, SOUTHLANDS NEWSAGENCY, 157 SMITH ST
PENRITH, PENRITH PLAZA NEWSAGENCY, WOOLWORTHS ENT VIA JANE ST
MOUNT DRUITT, RJ & JP MITCHELL NEWSAGENCY, 2 MOUNT DRUIT RD
MOUNT DRUITT, MOUNT DRUITT NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 16 WESTFIELD SHOPPINGTOWN, NORTH PARADE
BROKEN HILL, LAWRENCE NEWSAGENCY, 121 OXIDE ST
BROKEN HILL, WESTSIDE NEWSAGENCY, GALENA ST

ACT

ROBERTS CANBERRA CITY NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 6, CTRPOINT CITY WALK, CANBERRA
NEWSLINK NEWSAGENTS, 2 MORT ST, CANBERRA
CHUA, SHOP 2 CANBERRA ARCADE, WEST ROW, CANBERRA
HUNT NEWSAGENTS, 74 ALINGA ST, CIVIC CTR, CANBERRA
CONVENTION CENTRE NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 1, 33 ALARA ST, CANBERRA

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

VICTORIA SQ ARCADE, ADELAIDE
SHOP G11, 44-60 RUNDLE MALL, ADELAIDE
93 O'CONNELL ST, NORTH ADELAIDE
11-12 MALL 1 WEST LAKES MALL, WEST LAKES
SHOP 7, 190 FINDON RD, FINDON
CASTLE PLAZA S/C SHOP 56, SOUTH RD, EDWARDSTOWN
46 JETTY RD, GLENELG
150 GLEN OSMOND RD, FULLARTON
SHOP 22/23 TEA TREE PLAZA S/C, 976 NORTH EAST RD, MODBURY
SOUTH MALL, ELIZABETH SHOPPING CTR, ELIZABETH

WEST AUSTRALIA

NOARLUNGA CENTRE, SHOP 14-15 COLONNADES S/CENTRE, BEACH RD
PERTH, CLOISTERS NEWSAGENCY, SHOPS 7-8 / 865 HAY ST
HILLARYS, WHITFORD CITY NEWSAGENY, SHOP 46, WHITFORD CITY S/CTR
JOONDALUP, LAKESIDE NEWSAGENCY, SH 71 LAKESIDE SHOPPING CTR
BOORAGOON, GARDEN CITY NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 65/125 RISELEY ST

TASMANIA

Ellison Hawker Newsagency, TAS
Angus & Robertson, TAS
Elizabeth Mall Newsagency, TAS

QUEENSLAND

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CITY NEWS, CNR EAGLE & CHARLOTTE STS, AMP BUILDING, BRISBANE
MARA NEWS, SHOP 2, CREST INT HOTEL, ROMA ST, BRISBANE
SUNCORP CENTRE NEWS, SUNCORP METWAY PLAZA, ALBERT ST, BRISBANE
NEWSXPRESS CITY PLAZA , GPO NEWS, CREEK ST, BRISBANE
LUCKY GOLDEN GOOSE NEWS, 140 ADELAIDE ST, BRISBANE
LUCKY GOLDMINE N/A, ADELAIDE ST & CNR EDWARD ST, BRISBANE
GEORGE ST NEWS, 370 GEORGE ST, BRISBANE
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MARY STREET NEWS, 100 EDWARD ST, BRISBANE
PAPERMAN SUPANEWS, MYER CENTRE QUEEN ST, BRISBANE
TERRICA PLACE NEWS, AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT CENTRE, 140 CREEK ST, BRISBANE
MYER CENTRE SUPANEWS, LEVEL E, MYER CENTRE, QUEEN ST, BRISBANE
BROADWAY SUPA NEWS, LG12 BRDWAY ON THE MALL, QUEEN ST, BRISBANE
CIVIC ARCADE N/A, SHOP 1, CIVIC ARCADE, 65 ADELAIDE ST, BRISBANE
ALBERT STREET NEWS, 80 ALBERT ST, BRISBANE
MINERAL HOUSE NEWS, 41 GEORGE ST, BRISBANE
GPO NEWS, 40 CREEK ST, BRISBANE
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